

## Beechford College / MacDonald's Distance School of Nursing

Exploring the ward and hospital

The following activities can be undertaken at any time during your practical experience on the ward. They are designed to help you ~~understand~~ <sup>learn</sup> more about your patients and the hospital environment. You may choose the order in which you do them but they should all be completed by the end of your first year. The information you gain will be discussed with you individually ~~in~~ group sessions, and some ~~will~~ <sup>will</sup> be given as written exercises.

1. Find out which patients on your wards don't have any <sup>or few</sup> visitors. Make a point of discussing with them activities and events outside the hospital.
2. Identify the particular needs of self-care patients and be prepared to discuss <sup>how</sup> these needs may be met.
3. Imagine you are going to <sup>give advice?</sup> ~~test~~ a patient on your ward. Find out as much as you can about the treatment of his/her condition and activities on going home. Suggest what points you would include in your advice.
4. Examine the drug sheets of a particular patient(s). Look up the drugs, their doses, actions and side effects in the current British National Formulary and relate these to the medical/surgical problems the patient has.
5. Find out all you can about a particular test/diagnostic procedure. ~~Make appropriate~~ the preparation of the patient, details of the test (ask for the opportunity to watch it wherever possible), ~~and~~ subsequent after-care and possible complications.

6. Look up a procedure in the procedure book. Find all the equipment for it and work out the principles behind the procedure eg asepsis
7. Examine the equipment on your ward. Make sure you understand how it works, what it is used for and how it is cleaned or sterilised and whether it is safe
8. Explain how your ward is organised with regard to staffing levels and the patient's day
9. Identify ways in which you can learn from what is going on around you on the ward
10. Describe in detail the 'atmosphere' on your ward, and the factors which contribute to it
11. Examine the roles of the different hospital staff who visit the patients
12. Become familiar with the following hospital policies to be found in the administrative procedure book
  - a) accidents to patients, staff & visitors
  - b) hepatitis risk
  - c) cardiac resuscitation
  - d) drug policy / abuse of drugs / drugs brought in by patients
  - e) emergency search procedures
  - f) fire procedure
  - g) Intensive Therapy Flooded Contingency Plan
  - h) Health & Safety Policy Statement
  - i) reporting of infection incidents involving suspected contamination
  - j) safeguards against opacity on the long patient
  - k) patients moving from the ward
  - l) potentially violent patients
13. Give an account of the ward reports you have listened to (details or short).