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Fast Track Back: Re-entry to Practice for Registered Nurses (RN)

F.A.Q.

WHO:

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WHAT:

This program is designed for the RN without recent clinical experience preparing for re-entry into hospital nursing practice. This program provides clinical orientation in addition to classroom, online and other self-directed instruction. Twenty-five (25) hours of classroom instruction includes didactic content and state-of-the-science high fidelity human simulation. Current content has been developed from the five (5) most frequently seen DRGs in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region hospitals. The majority of the patients the Re-entry RN will be caring for will fall into one or more of these DRGs. The course also provides eighty (80) hours of hands-on patient care in an acute care clinical setting. The Clinical Faculty may need to adjust the guidelines based on the Re-entry RN's progress.

This is a 6-week program that has class one day a week for five (5) weeks, described in more detail below. Clinical times are added as follows: 3rd week for eight (8) hours; 4th week for sixteen (16) hours; 5th week for sixteen (16) hours; and the 6th week is a forty (40) hours clinical experience.

This program is supported by our Courseweb Online Blackboard System. Basic computer skills are necessary. The online component helps the Re-entry RN feel more comfortable with computer skills, which is important because of the use of computers in the clinical settings.

A unique feature of the ***Fast Track Back*** program is the two (2) mornings that are spent at the WISER Center for Simulation Education. This state-of-the-science center allows RNs to care for a specific chosen disease process with computerized mannequins that will respond according to the care provided by the RNs. The Faculty can replicate any patient care scenario to assist the Re-entry RN in refreshing old skills and learning new ones.

At the conclusion of this program, following completion of the didactic and clinical components, and after all evaluation documents are submitted to the Continuing Education Department, participants will receive **105 Continuing Education (CE) contact hours** from the PA State Nurses Association (PA SNA) and a certificate of completion.

The didactic program content is structured into five (5) Modules. One module is presented each week during a class-day which starts at 9:00 a.m. and runs until 2:30 p.m., including lunch. The following is a description of each Module:

Module I: Introduction to Professional Issues

In Module I, the Re-entry RN will receive an introduction to the program [course](#) and complete an individual learning needs assessment. Courseweb Online Blackboard System, with hands-on training, will be explained so the Re-entry RN will have access to self-learning modules and be able to review course paperwork. Professional issues will be discussed, and pharmacology pre-test will be administered.

Module II: Pharmacology

In Module II, the Re-entry RN will learn current theory and treatment modalities so that she/he may safely administer antimicrobial agents, selected cardiac therapies, diuretics, and insulin. A pharmacology post-test will be administered.

Module III: Clinical Decision Making and Medical Surgical Nursing Part I

The first of two (2) clinical simulation modules will include a review of physical assessment techniques and the management of the adult who experiences an acute or complex illness with an alteration in multiple body systems. The Re-entry RN's ability to apply the nursing process, using critical thinking skills, is expanded through classroom and clinical activities. Learning activities will take place in the Learning Skills Lab and the WISER Simulation Center (Peter M. Winter Institute for Simulation, Education and Research).

Module IV: Clinical Decision Making and Medical Surgical Nursing Part II

The second simulation module will expand on Module III and incorporate common admitting diagnoses of the adult client. Additional medical surgical nursing topics will be explored. Learning activities will include the lectures, and WISER Simulation Center scenarios.

Module V: Current Trends and Issues

This class will prepare the Re-entry RN for entry into practice in the acute care environment. Professional issues, patient safety, and cultural diversity are selected topics covered in classroom lectures and Courseweb Online Blackboard System learning.

Clinical Practicum

Each Re-entry RN will work side-by-side with a Clinical Coach according to her/his schedule. This practice is designed for the Re-entry RN to gain knowledge and experience in the clinical setting. This individualized precepted practicum experience provides an opportunity to be a member of the health team and organization while applying updated knowledge and interventions in the provision of client care.

WHERE:

The Didactic component of this program is taught by faculty at the University of Pittsburgh School of Nursing in the Victoria Building (Oakland Campus), 3500 Victoria Street, Pittsburgh, PA.

The Simulation component of this program is taught on 3rd and 4th Weeks at WISER Simulation Center, 230 McKee Place, Pittsburgh, PA.

The Clinical Practicum will be completed at either University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) Presbyterian Hospital or UPMC Montefiore Hospital in Pittsburgh, PA. The times for the clinical practicum will be set up between the Re-entry RN and Clinical Coach. A Clinical Faculty member from the School of Nursing will meet with the Re-entry RN while at clinical to discuss progress towards course goals.

WHEN:

Classes are offered twice during the calendar year. The schedule for the year 2007 is:

- Spring session - April 18, 25, May 2, 9 and 16 with clinical practicum completed by May 27
- Fall session - October 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 with clinical practicum completed by November 11

WHY:

This program is designed for RNs with a current nursing license in the state of Pennsylvania to refresh their nursing skills. This program is a recognized refresher course and not a reinstatement program, which is required in the event an RN has let the nursing license expire.

COMMENTS:

This very effective program has been in session for two (2) years, and many RNs have returned to work through this program. The goal of this program is not to replace a hospital orientation program, but to bring the most essential nursing skills up to date to the starting point similar to the completion of Nursing School. Of course, the Re-entry RNs who enroll in the **Fast Track Back** bring with them the experience of many years of working in the clinical setting, which assists them in regaining their confidence.

COST:

\$1,200 – tuition fee covers the cost of the program, textbooks, lunch and parking for the didactic and simulation components in Oakland Campus

\$12 – Liability Insurance fee

UPMC is willing to discuss scholarships to cover the cost of this fee if the Re-Entry RN completes the **Fast Track Back** program and subsequently accepts a full time position with a UPMC facility. For more details, this can be discussed further with a UPMC recruiter.

REQUIREMENTS PRIOR TO STARTING THE PROGRAM

- Registration Form
- Tuition Payment
- Liability Insurance Fee Payment
- Photo ID (copy)
- Current PA license as a Registered Nurse (copy)
- Current CPR (for Healthcare Provider) card (copy)
- Physical Exam [within on (1) year prior to starting the program]
- Current TB test (administered free of charge at the Allegheny County Department of Health) (copy)
- Healthcare Insurance Card (copy)
- E-mail Address (required for access to the Courseweb Online Blackboard system)

Please refer to our website for detailed course information:

http://www.pitt.edu/~nursing/continuingedu/fast_trackback.html