

Metropolitan Community College-Penn Valley-HSI
Physical Therapist Assistant Program
Clinical Policy-Health and Safety

Students should understand that while completing clinical rotations, there is some risk of injury or contracting an illness.

1. The student will be taught how to reduce the likelihood of injury or illness while in the program prior to clinical rotations including standard precautions, PPE application and removal, body mechanics, fire safety, etc. The student is required to complete a written examination on fire safety and standard precautions with 100% accuracy and is observed for proper body mechanics during practical examinations. The student is taught contraindications and precautions throughout the curriculum and safety considerations of each technique.

2. Prior to clinical rotations, students are required to have a physical examination completed to determine fitness to perform the duties required. The physical examination is performed using a standardized form provided to the student in the student handbook. Students are advised to release any information related to the medical exam that may impact patient care. The ACCE will verify that the student has completed the medical examination however, the medical examination will not be maintained in the student's file and the ACCE is unable to provide information from the medical exam to the clinical instructor due to confidentiality reasons.

3. A record of vaccinations, TB test, negative criminal background check, completed Hepatitis B vaccination declaration form, and Clinical Experience Informed Consent Form must be on file prior to completing clinicals.

4. The student is advised to acquire the Hepatitis B vaccination series, but may decline to do so. The student is required to sign a statement verifying Hepatitis B vaccination status.

5. The student is advised to carry health insurance and must sign a Health Insurance Waiver prior to beginning clinical rotations.

6. The student may be required to undergo a drug screen at the discretion of the facility and will be immediately be removed from patient care if positive. The program should be notified immediately of positive drug screen.

7. The clinical instructor should orient the student to safety procedures upon arrival at the facility: including, but not limited to: evacuation routes and procedures, emergency procedures, crash cart and fire extinguisher locations, etc.

8. The student is instructed to check equipment for safety and calibration stickers assuring the equipment has been checked and maintained in the last year.

9. Any student that is exposed to a blood borne disease such as Hepatitis B or is advised to sanitize the area immediately & then go immediately to the ER for prophylactic treatment. Each facility should have a written protocol to follow in such instances.

10. Injuries sustained while on clinical rotations are the financial responsibility of the student's health insurance unless negligence is determined by the clinical site.

11. If the student becomes ill or injured during clinical rotations, the student may be required to have a medical release prior to returning to clinicals.

12. Clinical instructors are advised to determine a student's ability to perform a selected procedure prior to performing on a patient.

13. Students are advised to communicate to clinical instructors their strengths and weaknesses and knowledge of a particular technique prior to performing on a patient.

14. Clinical instructors should observe basic safety precautions recognized by the industry. Failure to comply will result in discontinuance of the clinical affiliation.