



Intermountain Guidelines for Nursing Student Skills

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In the current healthcare landscape, we appreciate our wonderful new nursing graduates who are joining our nursing team at Intermountain. Our new nurse graduates come from a variety of schools with different experiences and training. In order to help best prepare nursing students once they are hired, it's important to support them with as many opportunities as possible and provide every opportunity to practice skills under the supervision of a RN.

However, there are still certain skills student nurses are not able to perform because they need to acquire more training and should only observe. In order to provide a consistent experience for nursing students across Intermountain, we are standardizing our “cannot do” skills list. Students should always work within the requirements of their current course objectives, which can be found in their syllabus. These requirements may change year to year or even semester to semester.

Beyond the student’s syllabus, Intermountain has developed the following guidelines for what nursing students cannot do and may only observe.

Here are examples of what student nurses CAN ONLY OBSERVE:

- Log in to the ADM or remove medications
- Handle controlled substances
- Set-up or change patient-controlled analgesia (PCA) settings
- Administer chemotherapy (hazardous PO meds okay)
- Act as a second verifier on high risk medications
- Administer high risk medications (i.e. insulin, heparin) IV push
- Vaginal exams – unless approved by the unit Educator
- Central lines – dressing change, clave change, flush & medication pushes, draw blood
- Foley insertion

Thank you for supporting our student nurses as they transition into professional nursing roles



