POLICY: SUBSTANCE ABUSE

POLICY:
It is the Policy of the Nursing Program at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville to enforce the Drug-Free Workplace/Drug-Free Schools policy of the University of Pittsburgh by monitoring the students in the nursing program for substance abuse.

1. The Director of the Nursing Program reserves the right to request random drug testing, and to receive the report of such testing of any individual student or group of students in the Nursing Program at any time during their enrollment in the Program.

2. If any student is reasonably suspected of substance use or abuse as described in Part I of “Guidelines for Recognizing and Managing Substance Abuse Among Nurses” published by the Pennsylvania Nurse’s Association, the Program Director reserves the right to require appropriate urinalysis and blood testing for drugs and alcohol.

PROCEDURE:

1. If any student is reasonably suspected of substance use or abuse the student will be escorted by the teacher and or other designated university official to the Health Center (for situations that occur on the university campus) for an appropriate assessment that may include blood and urine sampling. For situations that occur in a clinical agency, the teacher will escort the student to the Emergency Room of that facility and follow the guidelines of the facility for appropriate testing. Refusal by the student to participate in testing will result in automatic suspension from the Program.

2. The results of the assessment will be sent to the Director and will remain confidential with the Director of the Program. The incident and subsequent evaluation and treatment will be filed in the office of the Director of the Program.

3. If it is determined that substance abuse exists, the student will be automatically suspended from the Nursing Program. In order to be eligible for readmission, the student will be required to enroll in an inpatient or outpatient treatment program as determined by a treatment counselor. All costs of treatment are the responsibility of the student.

4. After successfully completing the prescribed inpatient or outpatient treatment program and receiving a positive recommendation from the program counselor, a student may apply to return to Nursing Program. The decision for reentry into the Nursing Program rests solely with the Director of the Nursing Program.
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5. If approval for re-entry is granted by the Director, the student must comply with the following conditions:
   
   A. Remain substance free while a student in the school
   
   B. Participate in the Impaired Professionals Program or other approved provider who can document continued sobriety and attendance at required meetings
   
   C. Meet and maintain the academic and behavioral standards expected of all students

See related Policy: Policy # S-2, Pre-Admission Drug-Screening
CONSENT TO TESTING FOR THE USE OF ILLEGAL DRUGS
AND RELEASE OF INFORMATION FORM

Student Name:

As an applicant for a position of student nurse with University of Pittsburgh at Titusville, Nursing Program, I hereby consent to a test for the presence of illegally used substances in my body. I understand that if test results are positive, I shall not be considered further for the nursing program.

I also understand that should I refuse to be tested in accordance with the stated policy or if I interfere with the test, I will not be admitted to the nursing program.

I understand results from my applicant related testing performed by Workers Care will be released to the Nursing Program Director, and agree to hold harmless from any such releases provided hereby.

Student Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

Please return all results to: Patricia McClain, MSN, RN
Interim Director of the Nursing Program
University of Pittsburgh at Titusville
504 E. Main Street, PO Box 287
Titusville, PA 16354

POLICY: PRE-ENTRANCE DRUG SCREENING

All applicants to the nursing program at the University of Pittsburgh at Titusville must submit to testing for the use of illegal drugs and alcohol for the purpose of admission into the nursing program. Further, a student may be tested at random throughout the course of their nursing education should a faculty member access and make professional judgments with respect to a student’s fitness for safe practice during clinical experiences.

1) Applicants must first complete the consent form: “Consent to Testing for the Use of Illegal Drugs and Alcohol and Release of Information”.
2) Applicants and students must agree to submit for testing for the use of illegal drugs or alcohol within the time frame specified. Failure to do so will result in immediate revocation of an offer of admission to the nursing program or expulsion.
3) Applicants and students must agree to the release of the test results to the Director of the nursing program.
4) Test results indicating the presence of illegal drugs or alcohol shall result in the revocation of an offer of admission to the nursing program or expulsion.
5) The applicant or student will be notified in writing of the revocation of the offer of admission or expulsion from the nursing program and the reason by the Director of the nursing program.
6) If the test results indicate the presence of a legally prescribed, appropriately administered controlled substance/drug, the applicant will be so advised and given the opportunity to provide evidence that he/she has been legally prescribed to take the controlled substance/drug at the time of the testing. The Director will take this evidence into consideration when making the decision about the applicant’s or student’s status.