



Policy

Title: Invasive Procedures for Paramedicine Programs

Policy Statement:

All invasive procedures performed by students on other students during their education program, may only be undertaken under the direct supervision by faculty and after procedure specific informed consent has been obtained.

Approved: (Original copy signed by the Chair of the Board)
(Daniel Vandermeulen, Chair of the Board)

March 21, 2019
(Date)

Sponsorship: Academic

To Be Reviewed: September 2021

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First Approval Date: December 15, 2016

Stakeholders Consulted: (Deans' Council May 2, 2016); (Academic Council, May 24, 2016, February 13, 2019); (Operations Committee, June 14, 2016); (Board of Governors, December 15, 2016, March 21, 2019)

Reference to other Documents: Alberta College of Paramedics Standards of Practice

Definitions:

Invasive Procedures are limited to:

- IV Cannulation and Normal Saline Administration in the hand and the lower forearm sites only
- Blood Glucose testing
- Subcutaneous injections of Normal Saline
- Intramuscular injections of Normal Saline

Purpose:

In the context of patient safety and quality, there is educational rationale to support students performing skills on each other. (Hilton & Barrett, 2008)¹. It is better to have had some practical experience before approaching a patient for the first time. In addition, there is added benefit of experiencing “what it feels like to be the patient”. Performing skills on each other in a supervised lab setting can assist the development of professional attitudes such as empathy, sensitive communication and patient respect.

Guidelines:

When students examine patients, they are required to respect autonomy, obtain appropriate consent and anticipate refusal. Similarly, when students act as patients, the same ethical principles apply.

The agreement to participate must be entirely free. Students must know that a refusal will not be detrimental to their future, health, welfare, and assessment or grading.

Students must receive appropriate procedure specific informed consent from the “patient” student for each invasive procedure done.

Students learn invasive procedures as part of their required course. Competent practice on non-living models must be demonstrated prior to performing any of these invasive procedures on any live subjects. External jugular IV cannulation will not be performed on living subjects and only demonstrated in the Advanced Care Paramedic program.

Any invasive procedure must use appropriate, sterilized equipment in the NLC lab setting only. Needles, syringes or catheters must never be removed from the facility by the students.

A student shall not practice these invasive procedures on the student’s own body.

Faculty shall not ask a student to perform a skill beyond the student’s competence. The students shall receive supervision and instruction appropriate for the circumstances and the risk level of the procedure.

The faculty are accountable for understanding the student’s competence in safely completing any invasive procedure on another student. Students have a corresponding responsibility to inform instructors if the student does not feel competent to complete the learning activity or if there is any factor, including medical conditions that may affect the student’s participation in the procedure.

Demonstrations of invasive procedures on any NLC student must be completed by faculty competent in the skill only with separate informed consent by the student for each demonstration.

¹ Hilton, P. & Barrett, D. (2008): *An investigation into student’s performance of invasive and non-invasive procedures on each other in classroom settings*. Nurse Education in Practice (2009) 9, 45-52. DOI: 10.1016/j.nepr.2008.03.005. Yorkshire: Elsevier.
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