

Safety Guidelines

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Patient safety is always our primary concern. Unsafe situations in which patients are put in compromising positions should be avoided.



The preceptorship situation presents a unique challenge: Students need a safe space to learn nursing practice, which means teachers must keep their distance, yet remain close enough to protect the patient and student while ensuring students learn to figure out on their own the issues of safety in providing patient care.

Safety guidelines build upon these principles:

1. Do not put **patients** at risk.
2. Do not put **students** at risk.
3. Ensure **safety precautions** are taken prior to gaining independence.
4. **Assess** for safe practice.

As preceptors and clinical supervisors we often need to remember that students actually *want* to be safe and are generally more careful than we think.



Sources: Diekelmann & Scheckel, 2004; Baltimore, 2004; Hrobsky & Kersbergen, 2002.