Unsafe Students in the Clinical Setting

Unsafe practice is defined as behavior or action that has the potential to cause serious harm to a patient. This is a serious situation and goes beyond a student who might come unprepared for a particular clinical day. Examples of unsafe clinical practice include but are not limited to:

1. Willfully or intentionally doing physical and/or emotional harm to a patient (e.g., abusing a patient)
2. Providing a pattern of patient care in an imminently harmful, careless or negligent manner (e.g., a series of medication errors)
3. Refusing to assume the assigned care of a patient, or failing to inform the instructor/preceptor in a timely manner of inability to carry out assigned care
4. Falsifying patient records or fabricating patient experiences
5. Failing to report an error in assessments, treatments or medications or failing to report an untoward event or adverse reaction
6. Failing to adhere to the Drug Free Campus and Workplace policy of the Medical Center (see **http://www.rushu.rush.edu/catalog/aboutrush/drugfree.html**)

If, in the clinical instructor's/preceptor's clinical judgment, a student is unsafe to continue in the clinical setting, the clinical instructor will take the following steps:

1. Dismiss the student for the remainder of the clinical day. The clinical instructor/preceptor will follow all institutional guidelines as appropriate. The student will not be allowed to return to the clinical setting until steps 2-6 are complete.
2. The clinical instructor/preceptor will document the reason(s) for removal within 2 business days and provides documentation to the student, Course Director(s), and the Program Director.
3. The Program Director will contact the Registrar's office to put a hold on the student's grade. The student will not be allowed to withdraw from the course at this time.
4. The Course Director(s) and Program Director will review the document and clarify any issues with the instructor/preceptor and student, as appropriate, within 2 business days of receiving the documentation.
5. The Program Director will decide whether to uphold the removal of the student or have the student return to the clinical setting. If the removal is upheld, the student will be administratively withdrawn from the course and receive a non-passing grade. The Program Director will notify the Registrar's Office. If the removal is overturned, the clinical instructor/preceptor will coordinate with the student a mechanism to complete the required clinical hours for the practicum.
6. The Admissions and Progressions Committee reviews any administrative withdrawals resulting in a non-passing grade. The Admissions and Progressions Committee will determine if the student is dismissed from the program or may return in an appropriate quarter per the procedures of the Admissions and Progressions Committee.
7. The student may elect to initiate an appeal process per procedures in the Student Handbook.
8. The documentation related to unsafe clinical practice will be kept in the student's file in the College of Nursing.