



CONTINUING NURSING STUDIES

Registered Nurse First Assistant
(RNFA) Program

Program Overview
and
Modules One, Two, Three, and Four

June 2009

Centre for Nursing Studies
Continuing Nursing Studies Department
Southcott Hall
100 Forest Road
St. John's, NF A1A 1E5

Operated by Eastern Health

Ph one: (709) 777-8162
Fax: (709) 777-7324
Toll Free Number: 1-888-290-6272

Copyright Notice and Disclaimer

The information contained in this work is the exclusive property of the Centre for Nursing Studies (Centre). This work is protected under Canadian copyright law, CANCOPY Agreement, and other international copyright treaties and conventions. No part of this work may be reproduced or transmitted for any purposes, in any form or by any means, electronic or mechanical, including photocopying and recording, or by any information storage or retrieval system, except as expressly permitted in writing by the Centre.

Questions or requests regarding ownership of material or permissions for reprinting may be sent by e-mail to bhaines@cns.nf.ca

Copyright © 2005, 2009 Centre for Nursing Studies. All rights reserved.

Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) Program

Introduction/Materials

Welcome to Continuing Nursing Studies! The Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) Program you are about to begin is a self-paced distance-learning course developed by the Centre for Nursing Studies for Hospital Boards within Newfoundland and Labrador.

For many learners, distance education is a new experience. Instead of attending classes at school, you will complete the learning material independently at home or in another suitable environment. All materials needed for completion of the program are included in this package or will be provided.

Materials:

Main Textbook

Rothrock, J.C. (1999). *The RN first assistant* (3rd edition). Philadelphia: Lippincott.

Other required textbooks will be made available at your work site.

Modules and Readings

- Five Modules
- All required readings are also included in the package
- Learner's Handbook - Centre for Nursing Studies - Continuing Nursing Studies

Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) Program

Program Objectives

1. Discuss the role and responsibilities of the Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) in Newfoundland and Labrador.
2. Use current theory and research as a basis for practice.
3. Use the nursing process and critical thinking for making valid clinical judgments.
4. Apply principles of asepsis and infection control.
5. Describe and demonstrate competencies related to first assist (soft tissue handling, wound exposure, hemostasis, needles and suturing, knot tying).
6. Demonstrate the ability to build a collaborative relationship with the physician and other members of the health care team.
7. Develop an attitude of lifelong learning to maintain competency.

Purpose

The purpose of the Registered Nurse First Assistant Program is to provide the advanced knowledge and clinical skills necessary to prepare the operating room nurse to practice in collaboration with, and at the direction of, the surgeon during the intraoperative phase of the perioperative experience. The advanced intraoperative competencies necessary for this role include: handling soft tissue, wound exposure, using instruments, suturing and knot tying, and providing hemostasis.

RNFA Theory Modules

The Registered Nurse First Assistant Program is a self-directed modularized learning process. The program offers five modules of theory. Each learner must successfully complete all five modules. The following chart summarizes content found in modules, estimated time of completion, and evaluation.

**Registered Nurse First Assistant
(RNFA) Program**

Program Content

Module	Contents	Estimated time for completion of Module	Evaluation
Module One Role and Responsibilities of the RNFA	Unit 1 Scope of Practice 2 Legal Regulation 3 Ethical Issues 4 Collaborative Practice 5 Leadership Skills 6 Nursing Research	100 hours	Exam 1 Exam 2
Module Two Asepsis and Infection Control	Unit 1. Chain of Infection 2. Body's Response to Infection 3. Asepsis 4. Infection Control 5. Multiply-Resistant Organisms	50 hours	Exam
Module Three Use of the Nursing Process for Clinical Decision Making	Unit 1. Nursing Process 2. Cardiac and Hemodynamic Considerations 3. Respiratory/Metabolic/Hematopoietic Considerations 4. Anesthetic Considerations 5. Perioperative Considerations	50 hours	Exam
Module Four Surgical Techniques Related to the RNFA	Unit 1. Soft Tissue Handling 2. Methods of Providing Wound Exposure 3. Providing Hemostasis 4. Needles and Suturing and Knot Tying	50 hours	Exam

Module	Contents	Estimated time for completion of Module	Evaluation
Module Five Surgical Procedures for General Surgery	Unit 1. General Surgery 2. Gynecology 3. Urologic Procedures 4. Peripheral Vascular Surgery 5. Orthopedics	100 hours	Exam 1 Exam 2

Or

Module	Contents	Estimated time for completion of Module	Evaluation
Module Five Cardiovascular System and Surgical Procedures	Unit 1. A& P Fluid, Lytes and Acid-Based Balance 2. Diagnostic and Therapeutic Procedures and Monitoring 3. Open Heart Procedures 4. Peripheral Vascular Procedures 5. Harvesting Bypass Conduits for Cardiac Surgery 6. Infection Control and Surgical Site Infection	100 hours	Exam 1 Exam 2

Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) Program

How to Proceed Through the Program

After receiving all materials included in the program, review them carefully to get a mental picture or idea of what the complete program entails. Before beginning, make sure you have completed reading the Learner Handbook. Modules should be completed in the order they are presented.

Begin each module by reviewing the objective and defining key terms. Read the module and required readings. When you feel you sufficiently understand the content, complete: the **Learning Activities** related to the objective, the **Comprehension Checks** at the end of the units, and the **Post-Test** at the end of the module. If you answer at least 80% of the questions correctly on the Post-Test, you probably have a fairly good comprehension of the content. If not, review the questions to see if there are certain areas with which you are having difficulty. You may want to review these areas again, and if you still have difficulty you should contact the Program Coordinator.

When you feel you comprehend the information contained in the module and are ready to write the final examination for the module, contact the Program Facilitator (St. John's) or tutor (outside St. John's) for necessary arrangements. The majority of final examination questions are multiple choice.

*Learners must achieve 75% in each of the module examinations. If this is not achieved, they have the opportunity to write two supplementary exams overall in the program. If a 75% is not achieved initially or in the supplementary exam, learners will not be able to continue on to the clinical component and will be required to withdraw from the program. The highest mark learners will be given in any supplementary exam is 75%.

A research paper is also required before the completion of the program. Most learners complete the paper before beginning the clinical portion of the program. Learners must obtain at least a 75% in the paper. Please see detailed information for written assignments in the back of the Learners Manual. Also, see attached guidelines and marking scheme for written assignment.

After all modules are successfully completed, learners will begin the clinical mentored portion of the program. Learners will spend approximately six weeks (200 hours) in the operating room primarily with the surgeon or other RNFA's. During this experience, learners will become proficient in performing the surgical techniques related to the RNFA assisting role and will be required to achieve a pass in their clinical evaluation.

**Learners are asked to complete the evaluation form included at the end of each module after writing the module examination.*

Registered Nurse First Assistant (RNFA) Program

Written Assignment General Guidelines

1. Topic selected for the written assignment must be current and specific to content in the course.
2. Current research or data must be available on the topic. There should be a minimum of three credible research references available. This is in addition to textbooks.
3. It is recommended that references be no older than five years, unless the reference is a classic i.e. Notes on Nursing by Florence Nightingale.
4. Assignments must be prepared using the APA format.
5. Papers must include:
 - ◆ Title Page
 - ◆ Table of Contents
 - ◆ Introduction, Body and Conclusion
6. Papers must be typed.
7. The length of the body of the paper should be no longer than 10 pages. This does not include the Title Page, Table of Contents and References.

Note: If learners are not sure about the appropriateness of the topic or if the references are suitable, please check with Fran Abbott, Course Facilitator, 777-8181.

**Registered Nurse First Assistant
(RNFA) Program**

**Written Assignment
Guidelines for Evaluation Criteria
Content of Paper (75%)**

Overall Content/Topic (30%)

Relates to overall content of paper and topic selection. Looks at such things as how content was extracted from references. Did they plagiarize? Did they successfully paraphrase or quote from references?

Organization of Ideas (20%)

How did learner organize content? Table of contents, headings, introduction to paper, body and conclusion are all scrutinized here.

Flow of Ideas (15%)

How did paper proceed? In an orderly, logical, sequential fashion.

RNFA Related (10%)

How well did the topic relate to RNFA nursing course content?

Mechanics of Paper (25%)

Grammar/Sentence Structure (10%)

Relates to how paper is written using proper grammatical and sentence structure. Punctuation and spelling are also considered in this area.

References (10%)

Selection of references used in paper, the way references are cited within the text of the paper, and how references are documented on the references page are included in this section.

APA Format (5%)

Remainder of APA format such as margins, punctuation, double space, title page, etc. are included in this section.

**Registered Nurse First Assistant
(RNFA) Program**

**Written Assignment
Evaluation Criteria**

Content of Paper (75%)

	<u>Low</u>	<u>Middle</u>	<u>High</u>
Overall Content/Topic	6	12 16 20	30
Organization of Ideas	4	8 12 16	20
Flow of Ideas	3	6 8 20	15
RNFA Related	2	4 6 8	10

Mechanics of Paper (25%)

Grammar/Sentence Structure	2	4 6 8	10
References	2	4 6 8	10
APA Format	1	2 3 4	5

Grade

Comments