

## **Drug Screen**

All nursing students enrolled in clinical nursing courses are required to be screened for substance abuse before coming to clinical agencies. Health care facilities in Alabama where students receive clinical experiences are requiring student nurses to be screened for drugs of abuse

### **Drug Screen Policy**

Approved by TROY School of Nursing Administrative Council, 12-4-02

The purposes of the School of Nursing drug screen policy are to comply with regulations of area health care agencies, to provide optimal care to patients, and to support the university zero tolerance policy related to illicit use of substances as stated in the Oracle Student Handbook and the Faculty Handbook. Students must abide by the drug screen policies of each health care agency in which a student is assigned for clinical practicums. Area agencies require that students not be involved in the sale, manufacture, distribution, purchase, use, or possession of alcohol or non-prescribed drugs. Also, students may not use prescription drugs illegally.

Students will submit authorization allowing Dynacare Laboratories to test body fluids for the presence of illicit drugs. In addition to initial screening that will occur when the student is admitted to the School of Nursing, students may be subject to testing for cause; such as, slurred speech, impaired physical coordination, inappropriate behavior, or pupillary changes. Test results are confidential with only program directors notified.

In the event that a student is suspected of illicit use of substances while participating in clinical practicums, the director of the program must be notified immediately and the behavior indicating that a student may be under the influence of drugs must be validated by two professional persons (faculty, nurses, physicians, etc.). The suspected individual will be asked to have a drug screen done immediately and to have a report sent to the director of the program as soon as possible (within 24 hours). The person will be dismissed from all School of Nursing activities until the issue is resolved. Permission to make up work, such as clinical experiences, will be granted based on the drug screen report. If the test is positive for the use of medication that has been prescribed for the student, the student may be allowed to make up clinical practicums. If the test is positive for the use of medication that has not been prescribed for the student, the student may not be allowed to make up clinical practicums.

Student failure to submit to a drug screen, attempting to tamper with, contaminate, or switch a sample will result in the student not being allowed to meet course objectives for clinical practicums; therefore, progression in the program will not be permitted.

Students who test positive for illicit drug use may not continue in clinical practicums and therefore cannot meet objectives for clinical courses. Following university policy, they may withdraw from the program and may apply for readmission. In order to be considered for readmission, the student must submit a letter from a treatment agency verifying completion of a drug treatment program. Readmission is not guaranteed. If the student is readmitted and tests positive for substance abuse a second time, the student is not eligible for readmission to the School of Nursing.

If a student tests positive for a prescribed drug, the person must obtain a written statement from the University physician stating that the drug level is within prescribed limits and that the level does not indicate abuse. The physician must indicate that the drug will not interfere with safe practice in the clinical area.

All test results will be filed in the School of Nursing and shall remain confidential.

### **Drug Screen Procedure**

1. Students will be notified by the School of Nursing in advance of the date and time for the initial screening.
2. Students will be required to sign a consent form allowing testing of body fluids for illicit drug content. The consent form will be filed in the program director's office of the School of Nursing.
3. The student will pay the cost of the drug screen.
4. Students on the Montgomery and Phenix City campuses must call Dynacare Laboratory at 334-263-5745 and make an appointment to be tested before attending their first clinical practicums. Students on the Troy campus must call the TROY Student Health Center to make an appointment for testing before attending their first clinical practicums.
5. The student shall provide photo proof of identification upon arriving at the specimen collection site. Dynacare Laboratory will provide instructions for specimen collection.
6. Dynacare Laboratory will report results to the TROY Medical Review Officer who will in turn report results to the Director of the School of Nursing.
7. If the results are positive, the student, the director of the program, and the director of the School of Nursing will be notified and the student will not be allowed to attend clinical practicums. The student will be referred to appropriate resources for assistance in dealing with substance abuse.

If the student is not allowed to attend clinical practicums and cannot meet course requirements, he/she must withdraw from the program and may reapply for admission.