

Skills List for 2026-2027

Scope of Practice for Students in the Ontario Tech-Durham College Collaborative BScN Program & Ontario Tech-Durham College

Nursing students are required to consider their level of knowledge, skill and judgment prior to undertaking any procedure or intervention. The nursing student is to request instruction, supervision or assistance when necessary.

The scope of practice outlined below may differ from that outlined in practicum placement policies. Where the practicum agency's policies further limit what a student can or cannot do, the agency policy must be followed. Likewise, when the practicum agency's policy allows for expanded practice, the information provided below is to be used to direct practice.

Supervision can be direct or indirect. Direct supervision implies that the supervising RN is physically present with the student while performing a procedure, and is vigilantly observing care. Indirect supervision implies that the supervising RN has determined that the student has the knowledge, skill and judgment to more independently complete with a procedure safely. The RN remains aware of the student's activities, and is available for consultation and support as needed.

*In the table below, where a "yes" is indicated for a skill it is assumed that supervision must always be **Direct** until the RN/Clinical Sessional Instructor (CSI) has determined that the student is safe and competent to progress to a level of **Indirect supervision**. The speed at which individual students will progress to indirect supervision is dependent on a variety of factors that the RN must consider (i.e. year level, amount of exposure to the skill, acuity of the patient, resources available etc.)*

Students may not, under any circumstance, independently be responsible for providing care to unstable or deteriorating patients

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Medical Orders/Lab and Diagnostic Results/Consents				
Taking verbal orders from Health Care Provider (NP or Physician)	No	No	No	No
Receiving lab or diagnostic results via telephone	No	No	No	No
Obtain signed consent	No	No	No	No
Follow medical directives	Yes, if entered as order OR outlined clearly in current agency policy	Yes, if entered as order OR outlined clearly in current agency policy	Yes, if entered as order OR outlined clearly in current agency policy	Yes, if entered as order OR outlined clearly in current agency policy
Process Orders	No	No	No	Yes, with co-sign. Co-sign may include any registered nurse i.e. RN, RPN
Adult Acute & Critical Care				
Endotracheal Tube (ETT) care	No	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision providing student has completed appropriate training, and as per agency policy
Dialysis (peritoneal/hemodialysis)	No	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision once competency established by preceptor
12 Lead ECG / Telemetry (students may not independently be responsible for interpreting ECG results)	No	May apply electrodes once competency established by Clinical Instructor	May apply electrodes once competency established by Clinical Instructor	May apply electrodes once competency established by Preceptor. May perform 12 lead ECG under direct supervision,

				once competency established by preceptor.
Mechanical Ventilation – See Respiratory Care				
Labour & Delivery				
WinRho Preparation & Administration	No	No	No	Under direct supervision – if this requires co-sign, students cannot be one of the two signatures Under direct supervision – if this requires co-sign, students cannot be one of the two signatures
IV Oxytocin administration (postpartum only)	No	No	No	Under direct supervision with postpartum patients only
Internal Vaginal Examinations (prepartum and L & D)	No	No	No	No
Pediatrics				
Pediatric & NICU medication – see medications				
Blood & Blood Products				

Blood & Blood Product Administration	No	No	May monitor patient during infusion Students can participate in blood verification process but not act as cosign. Students may not initiate the infusion of blood product	May monitor patient during infusion May participate in blood verification process, but not act as one of the co-signers. May initiate infusion of blood product, under direct supervision provided student, preceptor and additional nurse are all present during verification process
Dialysis – See Adult Acute & Critical Care				
Elimination				
Catheterization – See Tubes & Drains				
End of Life				
Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID)	No	No	No	May assist NP or physician i.e. educating clients, providing support to clients and family etc. under supervision of preceptor. <i>Students may NOT give injection</i>
IV Therapy				
Peripheral Venous Access Device (PVAD): Saline Lock Flush, convert to IV and discontinue	No	No	No	Yes, under Direct Supervision until competency demonstrated

Peripheral Venous Access Device (PVAD): assess & maintain	Yes After competency has been established in the lab; then requires direct supervision from CSI	Yes *purging of air requires direct supervision	Yes * purging of air requires Direct Supervision until competency demonstrated	Yes * purging of air requires Direct Supervision until competency demonstrated
PVAD Initiation	No	No	No	Under Direct Supervision provided student has completed requirements for agency certification
Central Venous Access Devices (CVAD): - Medication Administration - Cap & Tubing Change - Dressing Change - Flushing - Blood Sampling (Tunnelled, Implanted, PICC)	No	No	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD education	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD education
CVAD: Port-a-cath establishing needle access	No	No	No	No
Total Parenteral Nutrition - TPN	No	No	No	Can participate in TPN verification process, but not act as one of the co-signers. May hang bag, under direct supervision, provided student, preceptor and additional nurse are all present during verification process (Student must have agency CVAD certification)

				in order to administer TPN via central venous access device.)
Medication Administration – Please see important notes following chart regarding medication administration				
Medication administration by all routes (oral, nasal, rectal, topical, eye drop, ear drop, inhaled, SC, IM <i>(except IV medications)</i>)	No	Under direct supervision from CSI	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision until competency has been established
IV medication administration	No	Yes, under direct supervision from CSI once competency has been established in lab	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision until competency has been established
Immunizations	No	Yes, under direct supervision of CSI	Yes	Yes
IV Direct Push Medications	No	No	No	No
IV Medication via CVAD	No	No	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD workshop	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD workshop
Narcotics and Controlled Substances	No	Narcotics by any route require Direct Supervision from CSI. Student may administer under Direct Supervision. Must be witnessed and co-	Narcotics by any route require Direct Supervision Student may administer under Direct Supervision.	Narcotics by any route require Direct Supervision Student may administer under Direct Supervision. Must be witnessed and co-signed.

		signed. <i>Co-sign may include any registered nurse i.e. RN, RPN</i>	Must be witnessed and co-signed. <i>Co-sign may include any registered nurse i.e. RN, RPN</i>	<i>Co-sign may include any registered nurse i.e. RN, RPN</i>
Pediatric & NICU Medication administration	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision Read and follow agency policies regarding co-signing, supervision and administration of medications	Read and follow agency policies regarding co-signing, supervision and administration of medications
Patient Controlled Analgesia (PCA/CADD pump/Epidural)	No	No	Students may not administer, hang or titrate medications for epidural, CADD or PCA infusions. Students can monitor infusion and patient response and check orders, but cannot be solely responsible for independent double check	Students may not administer, hang or titrate medications for epidural, CADD or PCA infusions. Students can monitor infusion and patient response and check orders, but cannot be solely responsible for independent double check
Medical Cannabis Administration	No	No	No	No
Nutrition				
Enteral Feeding (all types)	Yes, once competency has been demonstrated in lab then under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes

TPN – see IV Therapy				
Patient Transfer				
Transporting a patient	Students may not accept responsibility for transporting a patient outside of the assigned unit; may only act as an observer	Students may not accept responsibility for transporting a patient outside of the assigned unit; may only act as an observer	Students may not accept responsibility for transporting a patient outside of the assigned unit; may only act as an observer	Students may not accept responsibility for transporting a patient outside of the assigned unit; may only act as an observer
Mechanical Lift	Under direct supervision of Clinical Sessional Instructor provided the following: agency policy permits students and the appropriate agency training has been completed with documentation submitted to the school. Students may then act as 2 nd person in mechanical lift transfer	Yes, as per agency policy	Yes, as per agency policy	Yes, as per agency policy
Respiratory Care				
Nasal Cannula/oxymask/venturi mask/non-rebreather mask	Yes, once competency established in lab, then under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes
Hi flow nasal cannula	No	No	Yes, under Direct Supervision provided student has completed requirements as per agency policy.	Under Direct Supervision provided student has completed requirements as per agency policy.

Mechanical Ventilation	No	No	No	Under Direct Supervision provided student has completed requirements as per agency policy.
Specimen Collection				
Blood Specimen Phlebotomy by venipuncture	No	No	No	Approval required contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Phlebotomy allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency phlebotomy workshop
CVAD: Blood sampling	No	No	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD workshop	Approval required. Contact Practicum Oversight Lead. Allowed only if agency policy permits & if student has completed an appropriate agency CVAD workshop
Glucometer Monitoring	No	Under Direct supervision of RN with glucometer ID access	Under Direct supervision of RN with glucometer ID access	Under Direct supervision of RN with glucometer ID access
		<i>Students must obtain agency glucometer education in order to perform this skill Students are not permitted to use a co-assigned RN's glucometer code under any circumstance</i>		
Specimen collection (nasal, rectal, wound, urine, stool, sputum)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
Tubes/Drains				

Catheterization	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision once competency has been established in lab	Yes
Chest Tube Management (general care)	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision until competency demonstrated
Chest Tube Removal	No	No	No	No
Drain Shortening & Removing	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision
Endotracheal Tube (ETT care) – See Adult Acute & Critical Care	No	No	No	Yes, under direct supervision providing student has completed appropriate training, and as per agency policy
Nasogastric Tube Insertion & Removal	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision
Suctioning (oral, nasal, NGT)	Yes, once competency has been demonstrated in lab then under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes
Tracheostomy Care (suctioning, changing inner cannula, changing dressing/ties)	Yes once competency has been demonstrated in lab then under direct supervision	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes
Wound Care				
Sterile Dressing Change	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes
Wound Irrigation & Packing	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes

Vacuum Assisted Closure	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes
Wound specimen	No	Yes, under direct supervision	Yes	Yes

Students may not, under any circumstance

- *independently be responsible for providing care to unstable or deteriorating patients*

(Medication Administration)

- Administer any medication that is not labelled by a pharmacy or manufacturer.
- Administer any medication for which there is not a current written order (according to hospital policy).
- Prepare any medications in advance. Medications must be administered immediately after preparation.
- Act as one of the co-signers for a “potentially highly toxic medication” / “high alert medication” (i.e. insulin, heparins, IV narcotics)
- Prepare or administer chemotherapy medication
- Administer IVs medications by IV direct push (or in any way that entails administration of the dose in less than 15 minutes)
- Prepare or administer medications during a cardiac arrest or any emergency situation.
- Prepare any narcotic or controlled drug unless the control record is complete and accurate.
- Administer palliative care or other non-standard narcotic dosages without approval and cosign by the RN.
- Mental health (NURS 2703) – students will never administer depot antipsychotic medications without direct supervision
- Administer anesthetic medications

(Critical Care Interventions)

- Documentation of cardiac arrest or emergency situation

***** students may need to consult with the course lead regarding opportunities to perform skills not indicated on the skills list**