

# Transitions of Care: Surgical Care Navigator Program

## Syllabus – Fall 2023

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### Contact Information

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### Course Information

#### Brief Description of Course

The Surgical Care Navigator course is an inter-professional experience intended to provide students with an introduction to transitions of care in clinical practice. Students will participate as part of an inter-professional team consisting of 1-3 other health professions students (medical, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, pharmacy):

- 1) In a progressive, simulated, patient encounter over a 3-month period. Each month information regarding the fictitious surgical patient will be presented on an electronic platform and students will work to address patient issues/questions/concerns as this patient moves through various phases in their surgical care.
- 2) Student teams will also follow a real surgical patient throughout the entire cycle of care, including pre-operative assessment, peri-operative inpatient care, and post-discharge follow up.
- 3) Asynchronous learning through an online discussion platform will provide additional opportunities for inter-professional reflection and learning.
- 4) Identify ways to assist patients as they transition through surgical care

#### Course Goals

As a result of successfully completing the Surgical Care Navigator, students will be able to:

1. Integrate the knowledge, skills, abilities, and experiences of other clinical professionals as appropriate for the patient and clinical situation to provide care that is ethical, safe, timely, efficient, effective, and equitable.
2. Identify and explain principles of utilization resource management.
3. Discuss at least one issue they observed during care transitions related to each of the following value concepts: safety, quality, service, and cost.
4. Create a tool to aid future patients through phases of care

### Course Format & Schedule

#### Timeline

The course is delivered online through assigned readings, power point slides, and online discussions. Students enrolled in the course will meet once at the beginning of the semester for orientation and once at the end of the semester for debrief and wrap-up. The Orientation and Debrief sessions are held over Zoom.

#### Dates of the Course:

- Thursday August 24, 2023: 1PM-2PM (Orientation/Introduction)
- Tuesday December 5, 2023: 1PM-2PM (Debrief)

#### Educational and Instructional Modalities

5% didactic, 70% self-study and guided clinical experience, 15% online discussion and reflection, 10% final project

#### Role of the Student in this Course

During the Surgical Care Navigator Program, students are placed into an inter-professional team consisting of at least 2 different disciplines (e.g., nursing, pharmacy) and are expected to explore:

1. **Plan of care** agreement or discordance among the patient/caregiver/family and different clinical providers
2. **Goals of care** perspectives from the provider and patient/family
3. **Care coordination** before, during and after discharge from the hospital, including the clinical roles of different providers (including, the nurse, pharmacist, physician, social worker, case manager, medical assistant, physician assistant, nurse practitioner, etc.)
4. **Communication** among patients, family members, and clinical providers throughout the course of the patient's cycle of care. Communication includes both written (medication list, discharge summary, EMR notes) and verbal moments of communication, which often occur during hand-offs and transitions of care
5. **Resource utilization** across different clinical specialties in the coordination of patient care

### Required Textbook(s)/Readings

Readings will be provided through Canvas. There is no required textbook for this course. A suggested textbook for reference is listed below.

### Additional Resources

Additional resources and readings will be provided as needed throughout the semester.

## Assessment & Grading

### Preceptor Evaluations

Not Applicable

### Assessments –

The assessment for this elective course is based upon three factors:

- 1) **Inter-professional team participation in an online virtual patient experience:** A patient's experience in transitioning through various phases of surgical care will be simulated virtually. Students will receive a prompt each month for a total of 3 months about the virtual patient's experiences in the pre-op, operative, and post-operative phases of care. Each phase of care will be linked to discussion questions/reflections.
- 2) **Follow one complex surgical patient and completion of REDCap survey items:** Students will work as a member of an inter-professional team in following one complex surgical patient through all stages of their surgical care (pre-operative, in-patient, and post-operative) in order to observe patient transitions of care. While this task can be completed as a team or individually, each group will be required to conduct a patient interview at each stage of the patient's care (one interview in the pre-operative setting, one patient in the in-patient setting, and one in the post-operative setting). The group is required to submit patient data via a REDCap survey.
- 3) **Reflective writing:** students will reflect on the course content and topics that they find particularly interesting or important for their future career in medicine. These must be completed and posted on CANVAS.
- 4) **Final Project:** students will create a tool to aid a patient through phases of surgical care. Individual or group projects will be accepted. If a group project is submitted, each team member must provide an individual written description of how the tool could be used in their own field of medicine (i.e.- Pharmacy students can share how a tool would help with medicine reconciliation).

Assessment/Assignment	Due Date	Weight towards Final Grade
Attendance at course Orientation/Introduction	August 24, 2023	Must pass
Participation & completion of virtual patient simulation	Sep 30, Oct 31, Nov 30, 2023	Must pass
Participation & completion of REDCap items	Nov 30, 2023	Must pass
Final Project	Nov 30, 2023	Must pass
Attendance at course Debrief	December 5, 2023	Must pass

### Grading System

Students will receive a final letter grade of PASS (P), or FAIL (F) for this course.

PASS: A student who achieves the passing criteria for EACH of the must pass elements will receive a course grade of PASS.

FAIL: A student who fails to achieve the criteria for PASS will be assigned a grade of FAIL for the course.

## Student Feedback

Student feedback is important and helps identify opportunities to improve the course. At the conclusion of the course, medical students are required to complete a formative evaluation. Evaluations are completed electronically and remain confidential.

Standard Policies: Please refer to the Student Handbook (on the Student Affairs website) for these policies:

- Accommodations
- Addressing Sexual Misconduct
- Attendance policy
- Dress Code
- Examination and Grading Policies
- Grade or Score Appeal
- Professionalism, Roles & Responsibilities
- Mistreatment

## Center for Disability & Access Services

The University of Utah seeks to provide equal access to its programs, services and activities for people with disabilities. If you will need accommodations in the class, reasonable prior notice needs to be given to the Center for Disability and Access, 162 Olpin Union Building, 581-5020 (V/TDD). Staff of the Center for Disability and Access will work with you and the instructor to make arrangements for accommodations. All written information in this course can be made available in alternative format with prior notification to the Center for Disability and Access.

The Senior Director of the Academic Success Program, Dr. Steven Baumann (1C047B SOM Dean's Office, 587-3671, or [steven.baumann@hsc.utah.edu](mailto:steven.baumann@hsc.utah.edu)), serves as the liaison between the School of Medicine and the Center for Disability and Access.