Discovery Program
Theatre
Our Unit

Our operating theatres consist of 15 working theatres across our campuses of Footscray, Sunshine and Williamstown.

Theatres are staffed 24 hours, 7 days a week and cover a range of specialities including:

- Obstetrics
- Gynaecology
- Opthamology
- Plastics
- Paediatrics
- Orthopaedics
- ENT & Facio Maxillary
- Urology
- Major General
- Thoracics
- Vascular
- Neurology

Dec 2011
Nursing Staff Profile

Postgraduate students
Discovery participants
GNP’s on rotation
CNS’s and experienced grade 2 RN’s
Clinical Educators
Graduate Support Nurse
Discovery Program

6 month supported clinical rotation to registered nurses with little or no experience in the speciality of perioperative scrub/scout or anaesthetics/PACU nursing.

The aim of the program is to facilitate the participant's development of the foundational knowledge and clinical skills required to practice safely and effectively in the perioperative setting.

Throughout the structured program, specialist clinical educators and preceptors provide participating staff with clinical, educational and professional support.

Successful completion of Theatre Discovery Program is recognised by Deakin University & an elective credit is granted towards their Perioperative Post Graduate Certificate Course.
Aims and Objectives

Provide participants with the opportunity to:

• experience and practice their chosen stream of perioperative nursing in a supportive environment.

• develop foundational knowledge and skills.

• obtain competency in essential scrub/scout or anaesthetic/PACU clinical skills, such as providing effective, efficient and safe nursing care for the patient.

• prepare and discuss the equipment required for specific procedure being performed, ie surgeon's preferences, anaesthetic requirements.

• provide effective, efficient and safe nursing care for the patient by assisting surgical/anaesthetic team; be a patient advocate; maintaining sterile environment; Anaesth/PACU participants to provide post op care and assessment & ensure nausea and analgesia are attended to.
Clinical Content

6 month program.

Minimal clinical hours: 66 hrs/fortnight (employed at a minimum 0.7EFT) but full time is preferred.

Participants may take up to two weeks of annual leave during the Discovery Program which must be booked within the first four weeks of commencing the Program.

Two supernumerary weeks and three educational study days.

Participants are rotated through the different specialties offered at the campus they are contracted to.

Anaesth/PACU students are given a 3 month rotation in anaesthesics, and 3 months rotation in PACU.
Clinical Content (continued)

During one of the study day, participants will spend 1/2 a shift in CSSD with the NUM to gain an understanding of the important role this department plays in the activities of the operating theatre and the impact this has on patient care.

Essentially participants will work day shift with no weekend or public holiday shifts. However within the final four weeks, depending on the skill of the participant, evening shifts may be rostered.
Clinical Support

Course participants are allowed a 2 week period which they are supernumerary in the department. This time can be extended if it is deemed that more support is required.

Each participant is allocated at least two preceptors, to maximise the chances that they will be on the same shift as at least one of the preceptors, and to increase participant’s exposure to differing strengths/interests.

Clinical educators are available as well as the Clinical Support Nurse for the Graduate Nurse Program.
Clinical Assessment

Interim appraisal (formative) at 3 months and final appraisal (summative) at the end of 6 months.

Satisfactory completion of the minimum amount of clinical hours as well as:

• Satisfactory completion of all relevant competencies. These may be signed off by preceptors, clinical staff (CNS or above) or educators.

• Competencies to be completed for each stream are listed below:
Clinical Assessment (continued)

**Scrub/Scout**

- Instrument & circulating nurse roles
- Electrosurgical safety
- Specimen handling
- Surgical count
- Surgical scrubbing, gowning & gloving
- Intraoperative preparation

**Anaesthetic/PACU**

- Checking anaesthetic machine
- Preparation for anaesthetics
- Admission of patients to the OR
- Assisting with regional/local anaesthetics
- Rapid sequence induction
- Assisting with a difficult airway
- Invasive monitoring
- Infusion pumps/PCA pumps
- Pain assessment & management in PACU
- Patient assessment in PACU
- Preparation of PACU
- Airway management in PACU
Theoretical Component

Objectives.
Within the 2 week supernumerary time, participants are to set themselves 5 challenging objectives utilising the S.M.A.R.T. format.
To be achieved by the end of the program.

Presentation.
Required to give a 10 minute presentation on a relevant perioperative topic.
To be presented at one of the allocated staff Inservice mornings.
Only limited dates are available so it is participants’ responsibility to allocate a suitable date and to then be rostered accordingly. Date of presentation should be determined within 2 week supernumerary time.
Theoretical Component (continued)

Log Book.

Log book of exposure to patient care for varying types of surgical procedures needs to be completed on a daily basis.

To be signed off by the staff member working with them.

Case Study.

Participants are to complete a patient case study, which requires written answers of 1,500 words in total.

Must achieve minimum grade of 80% for a pass.
Theoretical Component (continued)

Work Book.

Work book contains basic information as well as suggested resources and readings.

Learning activities and short answer questions contained within work book are to be completed by the end of the program and are graded with a minimum pass grade of 80%.

Learning activities for each stream are outlined below:
Theoretical Component (continued)

Scrub/Scout

• Aseptic technique
• Counting for accountable items
• Electrosurgical equipment and theatre safety
• Infection prevention
• Patient positioning
• Reprocessing of reusable items
• Surgical plume
• Specimen handling
• Radiation
• Surgical scrubbing, gowning & gloving
• Surgical instruments
• Sutures
• Surgeon’s preferences

Anaesthetic/PACU

• Perioperative patient care considerations
• Monitoring devices
• Components of the anaesthetic machine and associated equipment
• General anaesthesia
• Regional anaesthesia
• Emergencies during anaesthesia
• Special anaesthetic considerations
• Introduction to PACU nursing
• Preparation of PACU environment & equipment
• Anaesthesia agents
• Patient assessment in PACU
• Post anaesthetic patient complications
Theoretical Component (continued)

Participants are also required to complete an open-book review test comprising 40 multiple choice and true/false questions.

• Test requires 80% minimum pass grade.

Participants need to complete Western Health online learning packages.

3 x 10 hour study days/workshops conducted by the theatre educators. May include presentations from other relevant personnel.

Additionally, impromptu workshops/tutorials may be offered if participants feel the need to revisit concepts or practice away from patient care areas, staffing permitting.
Theoretical Assessment

Educators roster is displayed each fortnight and endeavours to cover each shift to maximize availability to students.

Educators allocate time with participants and review progress towards completion of competency book, workbook & short answer questions, achievement of objectives and progress of presentation.

Case study to be completed by the end of the 5th month of program
• Graded by educator with minimum pass grade of 80%

Presentation to be completed before final 2 weeks of program.
• Graded by educator with pass/fail (feedback provided).

Work book with short answer questions to be completed prior last 2 weeks of program.
• Graded by educator with minimum pass grade of 80%

Log Book and Competency/hurdle book to be completed & signed off in all appropriate places prior last 2 weeks of program.
Theoretical Assessment (continued)

Participants to hand back completed evaluation forms at the end of each study day and at completion of course.

All participants are given the opportunity to resubmit pieces of work if the required pass grade is not met.

A second fail mark will result in a learning contract for the participant and their participation in the course and continued employment will be reviewed.
Written & formulated December 2011
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