



BSN Program Requirement | Standard

Conflict of Interest

Introduction & Purpose

A conflict of interest can be defined as any situation that could result in compromised nursing judgment or nursing care because of a personal or familial relationship with an assigned client, resident, patient, health care provider, facility, agency or patient care area. A personal or familial relationship can include, but is not limited to: a neighbor; a personal friend of a relative, such as a parent; a relative, such as a sibling or parent; or a long-time family friend. A conflict of interest may create ethical dilemmas and jeopardize professional responsibility. The practice teacher and Nursing Practice Placement Coordinator (NPPC) will review each situation on a case-by-case basis and make a decision that supports the best interests of all parties involved. Failure to report a conflict of interest will result in an Unsatisfactory (U) rating in Domain 1 of the Practice Appraisal Form (PAF).

Clients/Residents/Patients

It is the professional and ethical responsibility of the BSN student to report conflicts of interest to the currently assigned practice teacher or NPPC in any situation where a conflict of interest may arise or be perceived. An alternate client, resident, or patient assignment may be assigned to the student.

Health Care Providers

In this context, health care providers can include staff members in a hospital or community based setting who have been assigned to work in a mentorship and/or preceptorship type model with the nursing student. The role of a preceptor and/or mentor is to provide constructive feedback and offer strategies and tools to further develop the student's professional practice, patient care abilities, and skill consolidation. On occasion, the relationship between the staff member assigned to work with the student may pose a conflict of interest. This will place the student and the staff member in an ethically and professionally compromised situation. If it is known that the assigned health care provider offering preceptorship and/or mentorship poses a conflict of interest, it must be immediately reported to the current practice teacher or NPPC and an alternate health care provider may be assigned to the student.

Facilities/Agencies/Patient Care Areas

A conflict of interest may occur while a student is practicing in an assigned facility, agency or patient care unit. It may be made known that a staff member in a facility, agency or patient care area may be indirectly associated with the nursing student. Facilities or agencies may include areas where a parent or relative is a supervisor of an area, or a member of the Interprofessional team. Examples of a patient care area can be extended to areas where off-unit practice experiences are coordinated, for example the Operating Room or Ambulatory Care. If it is known that the facility, agency or patient care area poses a conflict of interest, it must be immediately reported to the current practice teacher or NPPC and an alternate facility, agency or patient care area may be made available to the student; such arrangement could be temporary or for the remainder of the practice experience.

For further information please refer to [BCCNM's Conflict of Interest Practice Standard](#).