Mennonite College of Nursing

Illinois State University

Great Catch and Medication Event Policy

**POLICY:** Students who experience a medication event or great catch during clinical will follow the procedure listed below and complete the appropriate documentation tool. “**Medication Event**” refers to a patient receiving a wrong medication, not receiving a scheduled medication, or receiving a medication in the wrong dose, by the wrong route, at the wrong time, or at the wrong administration rate. The term “**Great Catch**” is used to describe a medication event that was caught before it occurred.

**RATIONALE:** The Institute of Medicine (IOM 2006) estimates that a hospital patient is subject to a minimum of one medication error daily with the potential to result in additional injury and expense. Medication Errors are underreported by nurses and nursing students. Not reporting a medication error prevents evaluation of the event that could prevent similar errors in the future. The IOM (1999) supports creating a culture of safety focusing on creating better systems to prevent errors instead of blaming individuals when errors occur. The Medication Event and Great Catch documentation tools are designed to aid in the student’s learning process by guided reflection using Tanner’s (2006) Clinical Judgment Model. This approach will increase critical thinking and help students to become part of a culture of safety. This policy will also allow faculty to identify system, education, or individual concerns.

**PROCEDURE:**

**1. The Clinical Instructor will review this policy with students during orientation for each clinical and review previous medication events and great catches. The student is responsible for having a copy of attached documentation tools with him or her at clinical.**

**2. If a medication event or great catch occurs, the student will complete and sign the appropriate documentation tool while at clinical.**

**3. The student will review the documentation with his/her Clinical Instructor. The Clinical Instructor will provide non-punitive feedback. The clinical instructor will sign the form after reviewing it with the student.**

**The Clinical Instructor will e-mail Dianne Clemens, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, to notify her of the event.**

**4. The student will turn in the documentation form to Dianne Clemens, Undergraduate Program Coordinator, within one week of the incident.**

**5. The Undergraduate Program Coordinator will review the documentation form to identify patterns or problems with specific clinical settings, or education procedures. She will also identify any need for further intervention. She will e-mail the Clinical Instructor to verify the form has been received.**

**6. The student’s name will be removed from the form. The form will be placed in a medication error/near miss file in the Undergraduate Program Coordinator’s office.**

Institute of Medicine. To Err Is Human: Building a Safer Health System. Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 1999.

Institute of Medicine. Preventing Medication Errors. Committee on Quality of Health Care in America. Washington, DC: National Academy Press; 2006.

Tanner, C. A. (2006). Thinking like a nurse: A research-based model of clinical judgment in nursing. Journal of Nursing Education, 45(6), 204-211.