General conditions
Definition
Students who have completed their second year of college studies in Nursing or at least 60 credits in Nursing Science in the past 12 months may work as interns. The Université de Montréal is an exception; because of the way its program is organized, students may practise as externs after accumulating 34 credits in its program.

These students must be hired as externs by a healthcare institution to which the OIIQ confirms their eligibility for a nursing extern position. The extern’s eligibility must be confirmed by the Order for each externship period.

Externship periods
An externship may last from May 15 to August 31 and may be extended from December 15 to January 20 of the following year, under the same conditions and in the same healthcare institution. For each externship period, externs must apply to the OIIQ Registrar’s Office for confirmation of their eligibility.

Places of practice
Externs may practise in a general and specialized hospital centre, a residential and long-term care centre or a rehabilitation centre for physically impaired persons, operated by a public institution in the meaning of the Act respecting health services and social services or the Act respecting health services and social services for Cree Native persons.

Exclusions
Intensive care, coronary care unit, operating suite, recovery room, intermediate care unit, delivery room, neonatology unit, and short-term psychiatric units and services.

Working conditions
Integration program
The institution must provide externs with an integration program lasting at least three weeks, allowing them to:

• perfect the knowledge and skills necessary to perform the authorized activities;
• demonstrate their ability to perform these activities;
• become familiar with the institution’s policies and directives.

Knowledge required
Externs must ensure, before performing any authorized activities, that they have the appropriate knowledge and skills.

Responsibilities of the DN and NICN
The Director of Nursing (DN) or Nurse in charge of nursing (NICN), or the nurse she appoints, is in charge of the nursing externship and must identify, for each extern, one nurse to whom the student may refer during the entire externship period so as to facilitate her integration into the clinical environment and the consolidation of her knowledge.

Supervision
Externs must work under the supervision of a nurse who is in charge of the patient and who is present in the care unit concerned in order to intervene immediately. Nevertheless, externs remain responsible at all times for the acts they perform.

Notes in user’s record
Nursing externs must record their interventions in the user’s record with their signatures, plus the abbreviation “nurs. ext.”

Ethical obligations
Externs must perform the authorized professional activities in compliance with the ethical obligations applicable to OIIQ members.

Liability insurance offered by the OIIQ
Externs are covered by the professional liability insurance taken out by the OIIQ for this purpose.

1. “Care unit” refers to a clinical sector, but does not include care units spread over several sites.
2. For rapid intervention, the nurse must be able to assess the patient’s condition.
N.B.: The feminine gender is used merely to simplify the text and designates both men and women.
**Professional activities**

Nursing externs may perform the professional activities listed in the *Regulation respecting the professional activities which may be performed by persons other than nurses*, respecting the conditions stipulated therein and the other conditions described above.

In addition, externs may perform the activities listed below only with a patient whose state of health is not in a critical phase or does not require frequent adjustments.

1. **Apply the following invasive measures for the maintenance of therapeutic equipment:**
   1.1. irrigate a nasogastric tube;
   1.2. irrigate a nasoduodenal tube;
   1.3. irrigate a gastrostomy tube;
   1.4. irrigate a jejunostomy tube;
   1.5. maintain an indwelling urinary drainage system;
   1.6. give tracheostomy care.

2. **Take the following samples, according to a prescription:**
   2.1. blood;
   2.2. urine;
   2.3. stool;
   2.4. wound exudate;
   2.5. tracheal secretions;
   2.6. gastric secretions;
   2.7. vaginal secretions.

3. **Provide care and treatment related to the wounds and alterations of the skin and integuments, according to a prescription or according to the nursing treatment plan, in the following cases:**
   3.1. do an aseptic dressing, including a drain or packing;
   3.2. apply a dressing to prevent and treat pressure lesions (stages 1 and 2);
   3.3. remove staples and sutures;
   3.4. provide intestinal stomy care (colostomy, ileostomy);
   3.5. provide care around the periphery of a gastrostomy, jejunostomy, cystostomy or nephrostomy tube.

4. **Check neurological, neurovascular and vital signs.**

5. **Mix substances to complete the preparation of a medication, according to a prescription.**

6. **Administer, according to the indicated route, the following medication or substances, when they are prescribed and, in the case of PRN medication, when the patient’s state has been assessed by a nurse beforehand:**
   6.1. oxygen, via the respiratory tract;
   6.2. a medication or substance other than a serum, a medication related to a research protocol, a substance related to allergy tests or a subcutaneous anesthetic substance:
      6.2.1. by oral or sublingual route;
      6.2.2. by nasogastric or gastrostomy tube if the tube is in place;
      6.2.3. by nasal, ophthalmic or otic route;
      6.2.4. by topical route;
      6.2.5. by vaginal or rectal route;
      6.2.6. by intradermal, subcutaneous or intramuscular route, after verification by a nurse;
      6.2.7. by respiratory tract;
   6.3. a drug or other controlled substance, by oral, rectal, intradermal, transdermal, subcutaneous or intra-muscular route, after verification by a nurse.

7. **Take part in the vaccination procedure forming part of a vaccination operation under the Public Health Act (R.S.Q., c. S-2.2).**

8. **Provide the following medical treatments, according to a prescription:**
   8.1. install a nasogastric tube;
   8.2. perform a gastric residue;
   8.3. administer enteric feeding;
   8.4. perform aspiration of nasopharyngeal secretions;
   8.5. install, change or remove a urinary catheter;
   8.6. perform a bladder catheterization;
   8.7. monitor an irrigation of the bladder;
   8.8. give an enema;
   8.9. give a colostomy enema;
   8.10. install a butterfly needle for an intermittent subcutaneous injection or for a perfusion by subcutaneous route;
   8.11. install a short peripheral intravenous catheter measuring less than 7.5 cm;
   8.12. administer an intravenous solution without additives, using a short peripheral intravenous catheter measuring less than 7.5 cm, when the solution has been checked beforehand by a nurse;
   8.13. install and irrigate with an isotonic solution a short, intermittent injection, peripheral intravenous catheter measuring less than 7.5 cm.

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**For more information:**

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