



# INVEST. INSPIRE. EDUCATE.

University of California Irvine Health Comprehensive Digestive Disease Center



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## Introduction

Gastroenterology is a field of medicine that focuses in digestive system and its disorders affecting the gastrointestinal tract from mouth to anus and along the alimentary canal. Dating back in 400 BC with the use of a tube and candle to the modern day flexible endoscopes, the advancement of gastroenterology practice has changed the means of diagnosing, managing and treating diseases.

The gastroenterology nurses and associates play an important role in the field. They assist the physicians during the procedures, reprocess used endoscopes and provide sedation for patient comfort. The gastroenterology nurses and associates also provide patient education about the procedure and collaborates with the members of the team to provide the utmost care to their patients.

Therefore, it is important for gastroenterology nurses and associates to be well trained, and equipped with the knowledge they need to practice in this specialized field.

## The Process

At UC Irvine Medical Center endoscopy center, we give high value with education and training to all the staff including the GI fellows, nurses and technicians to provide a world-class care to our patients. The training of the nurses and technicians includes a six month preceptorship in the pre-and post-procedure area and endoscopic procedures under moderate sedation and anesthesia. In addition, the technicians are intensively trained for scope reprocessing and handling. A performance evaluation will be conducted every month during training by the supervisor/manager as concurred by the preceptors.

As the gastroenterology practice advanced in the past decade, the GI nurses and technicians are encourage to familiarize themselves with anatomy and physiology, disease process, rationale behind the procedures and critical thinking.

Part of education and career advancement are the certification programs such as the CGRN (Certified Gastroenterology Registered Nurse), GTS/AGTS (Advanced/Gastrointestinal Technical Specialist), membership to SGNA (Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates), GI-related symposiums and conferences, product in-services with various companies and hospital computer-based testing.

## Goal

Our objective is to strongly support the UC Irvine Medical Center's mission of Discover, Teach and Heal. The focus is to begin with a structured training program and to continue to support the trainee throughout the training period. We believe being part of the gastroenterology practice is not just a job but rather a career. The staff supports one another and giving high value to teamwork and recognition of one's achievement and growth.

## UC Irvine Endoscopy Training Model

Probation period	GI nurses	GI technicians
1 <sup>st</sup> month	Training in pre-procedure and recovery room  Performance Evaluation	Scope room (Scope handling and reprocessing)  Performance Evaluation
2 <sup>nd</sup> month	Moderate sedation with diagnostic procedures (EGD <bravo and capsule> and Colonoscopy); 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> week: with a preceptor 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> week: independent with a senior GI tech  Performance Evaluation	Diagnostic procedures (EGD and Colonoscopy)  1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> week: with a preceptor 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> week: independent with a senior nurse  Performance Evaluation
3 <sup>rd</sup> month	Moderate sedation with Interventional procedures (Specialty procedures such as Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR), Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS), Radiofrequency ablation/ Cryotherapy, Laser procedures, Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), PEG/J-tube, Argon Plasma Coagulation (APC), Foreign body removal and Banding  Performance Evaluation	Interventional procedures (Specialty procedures such as Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR), Endoscopic Ultrasound (EUS), Radiofrequency ablation /Cryotherapy, Laser procedures, Optical Coherence Tomography (OCT), PEG/J-tube, Argon Plasma Coagulation (APC), Foreign body removal and Banding  Performance Evaluation
4 <sup>th</sup> month	Interventional procedures 1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup> week: nurse role 3 <sup>rd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> week: technician role  Performance Evaluation	Interventional procedures with a preceptor Bedside cases (ICU and OR) with a preceptor  Performance Evaluation
5 <sup>th</sup> month	Perform all procedures independently  Performance evaluation	Perform all procedures independently  Performance Evaluation
6 <sup>th</sup> month	Perform all procedures independently  Performance evaluation	Perform all procedures independently  Performance Evaluation
	End of training	End of training

References:  
Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates (SGNA). scsgna.org  
American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCN). abcn.org  
GI/Endoscopy Employee Development Resources. SGNA Third Edition