SGNA Associate's Program Module Descriptions

Module 1: Anatomy & Physiology
This module provides an overview of gastroenterology anatomy and physiology as related to the role of the endoscopy technician.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Describe the anatomy and physiology of the normal GI tract, including the esophagus, stomach, small intestine, large intestine, biliary system, pancreas and liver.
- Identify the position of each organ in the GI tract.
- Describe the structure of each organ in the GI tract.

Module 2: Equipment
This module provides information on the different equipment and accessory pieces required to perform GI endoscopy in order to provide safe and efficient assistance during an endoscopic procedure.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- List the different types of GI endoscopes and their main components
- Describe the equipment components and their functions needed to perform endoscopy
- List the most common repairs needed for endoscopes
- Explain how to properly handle, transport and store endoscopes
- Describe the purpose of leak testing
- Describe various accessory equipment and their functions
- Discuss the difference between monopolar and bipolar electrocautery

Module 3: Infection Prevention
This module addresses infection prevention in the GI setting. Basic infection prevention principles, terminology, and the steps utilized in the cleaning and disinfection of patient care equipment and medical devices will be reviewed.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Discuss basic infection prevention principles.
- Describe the appropriate use of personal protective equipment.
- Define Spaulding's Classification and how it applies to the GI environment.
- Explain the differences between low-level and high-level disinfection.
- Discuss the steps of high-level disinfection.
- Identify specialty endoscopes and their unique reprocessing needs.

Module 4: Patient Care
This module's goal is to discuss the standards and processes related to the care of gastroenterology patients through a discussion of the associate's role.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Apply the principles related to the role of the associate in providing patient care in the endoscopy setting.
- Identify the standards which form the basis of patient care in the endoscopy suite.
- Discuss the care of patients in the gastroenterology/endoscopy area.

Module 5: Risk Management
This module provides an overview of adverse events in the endoscopy unit and how the endoscopy associate may participate in the prevention of such situations.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Name 4 healthcare related risks.
- Describe 4 steps of risk management process.
- Discuss patient rights and responsibilities.
- Identify unusual occurrences/incidents.
- Define a sentinel event.
- Identify ways the associate can ensure privacy as related to the HIPAA Privacy Rule.
- State the importance of the Safe Medical Device Act (SMDA).
- Describe the process for reporting of suspected or known abuse.

Module 6: Roles & Responsibilities
This module provides an overview of the roles and responsibilities of the various members of the GI healthcare team.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Define the separate but related roles of the GI Nurse and Associate.
- Identify the job responsibilities of the Gastroenterology/Endoscopy healthcare team.
- List examples of job responsibilities for nurse managers, staff nurses, and associates as they relate in the gastroenterology setting.

Module 7: Safety
This module provides an overview of potential environmental, patient and personnel safety hazards associated with the role of the endoscopy associate.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Identify potential environmental hazards, patient safety hazards, and personnel safety hazards in the endoscopy suite.
- Examine ways to minimize the dangers associated with these hazards.

Module 8: Emergency Preparedness
This module provides an overview of gastroenterology emergency preparedness as related to the role of the endoscopy technician.

The learning outcomes of this module are to:
- Identify the most common endoscopic emergency situations, their signs and symptoms, and their appropriate interventions.
- Name possible sources of GI bleeding.
- Discuss the precautions that should be taken to avoid endoscopic complications.