

Medication Administration for Nurses

Course Description

This course reviews the entry-level knowledge, skills, and judgement required by the registered nurse to safely administer medications to clients. This course addresses a variety of topics within the realm of medication administration which includes knowledge of the medication, appropriate administration routes, safe preparation, accurate mathematical calculations, potential adverse effects, clinical judgments, documentation, and other relevant communication. If a learner has not completed the Pharmacology for Nurses course, it is assumed that a learner will have done a self-assessment and will have updated their knowledge of pharmacology.

Your learning will be facilitated through written lessons, textbook and journal readings, online quizzes and lab sessions. The lessons include learning activities to help enhance your knowledge. You are required to complete all required readings. Each unit contains learning objectives to help you organize your studying. Lab and pre-lab activities will foster discussion with classmates and provide opportunities to seek clarification from experienced faculty. The majority of lab time will be spent practicing skills related to medication administration.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course the learner will:

1. Demonstrate safety in the administration of medications within the expectations and responsibilities of Canadian nursing practice.
2. Identify appropriate nursing actions/clinical judgments related to safe medication administration.
3. Plan for, and administer medications to simulated clients in order to demonstrate the ability to set priorities, show effective time management, and make appropriate clinical judgments.

Format of Course

The theory for this course is delivered entirely online, learners study and review materials on their own and attend a mandatory lab session after completion of all online course work. The lab consists of 1 full day of supervised practice, one day of independent practice and one day for evaluation. The focus of the lab session is application of theory and practice of medication preparation and administration skills. Simulation will be used in lab sessions to foster learning. There is no required textbook to purchase, all study materials are provided online.

Content

Units	Topics
1	<p>Legal/Professional guidelines for safe medication administration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of health care team • Nursing process/health promotion and medication administration • Nursing considerations • Nursing resources for medication administration • "RIGHTS" of medication administration • Medication administration safety • Medication errors/high-alert medications • Organization and time management
2	<p>Calculating Medication Dosages, Reading Labels and Documentation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conversions and calculations/systems of measurement • Abbreviations related to medication administration • Terminology for medication administration • Medication administration Record (MAR) • Physician's orders and communication • Drug forms/reading labels
3	<p>Administering Oral, Topical and Inhaled Medications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Administration routes (e.g., oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intravenous) and related nursing judgments • Demonstrates safe, competent administration of oral medications • Learns how to safely administer nasogastric, topical and inhaled medications • Assessment and evaluation • Documentation
4	<p>Administering Parenteral Medications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Needle safety (e.g., disposal, guards, adapters) • Preparation of medications from a vial and ampoule • Preparation of mixed insulin • Reconstitution of medication • Demonstrates safe, competent administration of IM, Sub Cut and IV medications • Learns how to safely administer medications via a subcutaneous butterfly • Assessment and evaluation • Documentation