

Pharmacology for Nurses

Course Description

This course reviews the expectations of registered nurses in Canada in relation to pharmacology, including knowledge of pharmacological interventions. The course focuses on the concepts and principles of pharmacology; knowledge of medication groups; their actions, uses, and special considerations.

You are required to complete readings from the course textbook, as well as from additional sources. Any readings that are not in your textbook will be provided for you. Each lesson contains learning objectives to help you organize your studying. Some lessons have corresponding online learning activities to help with your review of the content, while others do not.

Course Outcomes

By the end of the course the learner will:

1. Describe the concepts and principles of pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and pharmacotherapeutics.
2. Describe knowledge from pharmacology to effectively plan and implement safe, comprehensive nursing care.
3. Identify principles of critical thinking and evidence-based practice in pharmacology as they apply to nursing care.

Format of Course

This is a self-directed, online course. Your learning will be facilitated through written lessons, textbook and journal readings, and online learning activities. A course schedule will guide your online learning experience. Communication with faculty and classmates will be facilitated through a discussion board and one online classroom session which consists of a group presentation.

Content

Units	Topics
1	Pharmacology in Canada <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pharmacotherapeutics • Understanding medication action • Canadian legislation and standards • Nurse’s responsibility regarding pharmacotherapeutics • OTC medications and the use of herbs • Problematic substance abuse
2	Treatment of Alterations in Perfusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antihypertensives • Diuretics • Vasodilators • Medications for heart failure • Medications for dysrhythmias
3	Treatment of Alterations in Fluid, Blood and Electrolytes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications to treat hyperlipidemia • Anticoagulants • Electrolytes
4	Treatment of Alterations in Behaviour, Mood, Consciousness and Cognition <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medications for anxiety • Antiepileptic agents • Antiparkinsonian agents • Psychotherapeutic agents
5	Treatment of Infection <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antibiotics • Antiviral • Other anti-infectives
6	Treatment of Alterations in Mobility and Inflammation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anti-inflammatory drugs • Drugs for muscle spasms • Drugs for arthritic disorders • Drugs to treat osteoarthritis
7	Treatment of Alterations in Gas Exchange <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bronchodilators • Antihistamines • Antitussives, expectorants, & mucolytics • Asthma medications • Anesthetics

Units	Topics
8	Treatment of Alterations in Metabolism <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hypoglycemics: insulin and oral • Thyroid medications
9	Treatment of Alterations in Cellular Regulation and Comfort <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antineoplastic drugs • Biological Response-Modifying Drugs • Pain Medications • End-of-life care
10	Treatment related to Immunity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Immunologic agents • Immunosuppressants • Vitamins and Minerals
11	Treatment of Gastrointestinal Conditions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Antacids • Laxatives and antidiarrheals • Emetics & anti-emetics • PPIs • Vitamins