Department:

Practical Nursing

Course Description:

This course introduces the principles of pharmacology and drug classifications. The course also covers the effects of selected medications on the human body. The nursing process is used as the framework for ensuring safe and effective nursing care for clients across the lifespan.

Course Competencies:

Upon completion of the course, the student should be able to:

1. Identify basic pharmacologic terms, abbreviations, and symbols related to medication management.
2. Relate applicable federal laws and regulations to the use of medications in clinical practice.
3. Explain pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetic principles of medication properties.
4. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of antimicrobial medications.
5. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of autonomic medications.
6. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of analgesic medications.
7. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of respiratory medications.
8. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of cardiovascular medications.
9. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of renal medications.
10. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of central nervous system medications.
11. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of endocrine system medications.
12. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of complementary and alternative medications.
13. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of immunological system medications.
14. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of hematologic medications.
15. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of psychotropic medications.
16. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of reproductive system medications.
17. Apply the components of the nursing process to the administration of gastrointestinal medications.
18. Demonstrate proficiency in dosage calculations.

Course Content:

A. Definitions
   1. Names
   2. Standards
   3. Information sources
B. Drug Classification
   1. Schedules
   2. Categories

C. Patient education and health promotion

D. Drug action across the lifespan
   1. Pain management
   2. Cardiovascular
      a. Angina
      b. Hypertension
      c. Hyperlipidemia
      d. Peripheral vascular disease
      e. Heart failure
      f. Dysrhythmias
   3. Metabolic syndrome
   4. Thromboembolic disorders
   5. Diuresis
   6. Antimicrobial agents
   7. Respiratory
      a. Upper respiratory
      b. Lower respiratory
   8. Gastro-esophageal disorders
   9. Nausea and vomiting
   10. Constipation and diarrhea
   11. Diabetes
   12. Thyroid
   13. Anxiety
   14. Mood disorders
   15. Parkinson’s disease
   16. Seizures
   17. Sedatives/hypnotics

E. Reproductive

Learning Assessments:

Course competencies will be assessed by use of tests, quizzes, assignments, participation, and comprehensive final exam (or ATI comprehensive test). Grading scale: A 94-100%, B 87-93%, C 80-86%, F 0-79%.

Instructional Materials:


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Lippincott’s Photo Atlas of Medication Administration, 4th ED., Lippincott Williams & Wilkins
Pharmacology Made Easy – ATI Modules & Tutorials
Dosage Calculation and Safe Medication Administration – ATI Tutorials

Guidelines for Requesting Accommodations Based on Documented Disability or Medical Condition

It is the intention of Highland Community College to work toward full compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, to make instructional programs accessible to all people, and to provide reasonable accommodations according to the law.

Students should understand that it is their responsibility to self-identify their need(s) for accommodation and that they must provide current, comprehensive diagnosis of a specific disability or medical condition from a qualified professional in order to receive services. Documentation must include specific recommendations for accommodation(s). Documentation should be provided in a timely manner prior to or early in the semester so that the requested accommodation can be considered and, if warranted, arranged.

In order to begin the process all students must complete the “Disabilities Self-Identification Form” at this link: https://highlandcc.edu/pages/disability-services.

This form can also be accessed at the Highland Community College homepage under Students Services/Student Resources/Disability Service or by contacting the Disabilities Coordinator.