

Virginia Western Community College

PNE 173

PHARMACOLOGY FOR PRACTICAL NURSES

Prerequisites

Admission to the Practical Nursing Program

VWCC Discipline Specific Course Description

Studies history, classification, sources, effects, uses and legalities of drugs. Teaches problem solving skills used in medication administrations. Emphasizes major drug classes and specific agents within each class.

Semester Credits: 2

Lecture Hours: 2

Required Materials

Laptop Computer, WiFi access, Elsevier Evolve Course Resources

Required Textbook

Michelle J. Willihganz, Samuel L. Gurevitz, Bruce d. Clayton, (2022) Clayton's Basic Pharmacology for Nurses; (19th Ed.), Elsevier, St. Louis, ISBN: 9780323796309

Morris, Deborah C., (2022). Calculate with Confidence, (8th Ed.), Elsevier, St. Louis ISBN: 978-0-323-69695-1

Reference Materials:

Stromberg, Holly K., (2026.) Medical-Surgical Nursing Concepts and Practices, (6th Ed.), Elsevier, St. Louis,

ISBN: 978044312102

Giddens, Jean Foret, (2025). Concepts for Nursing Practice, (4th Ed.) Elsevier, St. Louis, ISBN: 978-0-323-08982-5

Williams, Patricia, (2022) Fundamentals Concepts and Skills for Nursing (6th Ed.), Elsevier, St. Louis, ISBN: 9780323873642

Note to Instructors

VWCC AND DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC OUTCOMES

Course Objectives

After completion of this course the student will be able to:

1. **SAFETY** – Relate the legal and ethical aspects and related nursing responsibilities in the care, preparation, and administration of medications; Demonstrate knowledge of the classifications and characteristics of major drug groups and selected individual drugs; Utilize appropriate terminology associated with pharmacology and the administration of medications; Relate examples of specific drug actions, adverse reactions, and nursing considerations that may affect nursing judgment associated with the administration of medications and drug therapy; Demonstrate knowledge and correct use of drug abbreviations and notations as well as interpretation of medication labels; Identify anatomy landmarks used for giving parenteral injections.
2. **CRITICAL THINKING** – Analyze factors that affect drug pharmacokinetics; – Interpret drug orders for medications in order to calculate correct dosage of drugs ordered; – Identify dosage forms for drugs given by the enteral route.
3. **PATIENT-CENTERED CARE** - Analyze major concerns in drug therapy throughout the lifespan.
4. **EVIDENCE-BASED PRACTICE** –Demonstrate procedures for giving oral, topical, inhaled, and parenteral medications; – Demonstrate methods for administering intravenous drugs and the techniques for using various venous access devices; Relate factors that affect the choice of IV tubing used to administer IV solutions; Identify three techniques for infusing IV solutions; Apply critical thinking in the demonstration of the procedure for preparing, starting, and discontinuing an intravenous infusion.
5. **CULTURE** – Analyze common cultural misunderstandings regarding drug therapy.
6. **INFOMATICS** – Relate the use of technology and information management tools to support safe medication management.
7. **TEAMWORK** – Analyze the role of the practical nurse as a member of the interdisciplinary health care team in medication administration.

VWCC AND DISCIPLINE SPECIFIC TOPICAL DESCRIPTIONS

Course Outline

Clayton's Basic Pharmacology for Nurses

Unit I: Applying Pharmacology to Nursing Practice

Ch. 1: Drug Definitions, Standards, and Information Sources

Ch. 2: Basic Principles of Drug Action and Drug Interactions

Ch. 3: Drug Action Across the Life Span

Ch. 4: The Nursing Process and Pharmacology

Ch. 5: Patient Education to Promote Health

Unit III: Drugs Affecting the Autonomic and Central Nervous System

- Ch. 12: Drugs Affecting the Autonomic Nervous System
- Ch. 13: Drugs Used for Sedation and Sleep
- Ch. 14: Drugs Used to Treat Neurodegenerative Disorders
- Ch. 18: Drugs Used for Seizure Disorders
- Ch. 19: Drugs Used for Pain Management

Unit IV: Drugs Affecting the Cardiovascular System

- Ch. 20: Introduction to Cardiovascular Disease and Metabolic Syndrome
- Ch. 21: Drugs Used to Treat Dyslipidemias
- Ch. 22: Drugs Used to Treat Hypertension
- Ch. 23: Drugs Used to Treat Dysrhythmias
- Ch. 24: Drugs Used to Treat Angina Pectoris
- Ch. 25: Drugs Used to Treat Peripheral Vascular Disease
- Ch. 26: Drugs Used to Treat Thromboembolic Disorders
- Ch. 27: Drugs Used to Treat Heart Failure
- Ch. 28: Drugs Used Diuresis

Unit V: Drugs Affecting the Respiratory System

- Ch. 29: Drugs Used to Treat Upper Respiratory Disease
- Ch. 30: Drugs Used to Treat Lower Respiratory Disease

Unit VI: Drugs Affecting the Digestive System

- Ch. 31: Drugs Used to Treat Oral Disorders
- Ch. 32: Drugs Used to Treat Gastroesophageal Reflux and Peptic Ulcer Disease
- Ch. 33: Drugs Used to Treat Nausea and Vomiting
- Ch. 34: Drugs Used to Treat Constipation and Diarrhea

Unit VII: Drugs that Affect the Endocrine System

- Ch. 35: Drugs Used to Treat Diabetes Mellitus
- Ch. 36: Drugs Used to Treat Thyroid Disease
- Ch. 37: Corticosteroids
- Ch. 38: Gonadal Hormones

Unit VIII: Drugs Affecting Other Body Systems

- Ch. 41: Drugs Used to Treat Disorders of the Urinary System
- Ch. 42: Drugs Used to Treat Glaucoma and Other Eye Disorders
- Ch. 43: Drugs Used to Treat Cancer
- Ch. 44: Drugs Used to Treat Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Ch. 45: Drugs Used to Treat Infection

SCHEDULE PNE 173 Pharmacology for Practical Nurses Spring, 2025			
Date	Class Topic	Corresponding Chapters	Tests
1/21	*RECORDED LECTURE- NO CLASS* Course Intro & Infection	Chapters 1-10 & 38-42	
1/28	Infection Continued	Chapters 38-42	
2/4	Digestion & Test Review	Chapters 31-33	
2/11	Adaptive Quizzing & Sherpath due by 8AM		Test 1 & Sherpath Due
2/18	Respiratory & Neuro	Chapters 29-30, 11-15	
2/25	Neuro	Chapters 11-15	
3/4	Neuro & Test Review	Chapters 11-15	
3/11	Adaptive Quizzing & Sherpath due by 8AM		Test 2 & Sherpath Due
3/18	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK	SPRING BREAK
3/25	Cardiac	Chapters 22-25, 26-28	
4/1	Cardiac & Endocrine	Chapters 22-25, 26-28, 34-35	
4/8	Cardiac & Endocrine & Test Review	Chapters 22-25, 26-28, 34-35	
4/15	Adaptive Quizzing & Sherpath due by 8am		Test 3 & Sherpath Due
4/22	Reproductive & Other	Chapters 36-37, 38-42	
4/29	Reproductive & Other & Test review	Chapters 36-37, 38-42	
5/6	Adaptive Quizzing & Sherpath due by 8AM		Test 4 & Sherpath Due
5/11	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM	FINAL EXAM!
	Finish Line!!!	SUMMER BREAK!	SUMMER BREAK!

[TITLE IX STATEMENT](#)

[ADA STATEMENT](#)