



Course Code NURS-415	Course Title Acute Care (Provision and Management of Care)	ECTS Credits 10
Prerequisites NURS-220	Department Life & Health Sciences	Semester Fall
Type of Course Required	Field Nursing	Language of Instruction English
Level of Course 1 st Cycle	Lecturer(s) Jacqueline A. England	Year of Study 4 th
Mode of Delivery Face-to-face	Work Placement Continuing Care	Co-requisites None

Objectives of the Course:

The main objectives of the course are to:

- To review the appropriate theory and evidence based knowledge necessary for the development of practical skills required by the nurse to manage client care in a critical care setting.
- To emphasis is given to the prioritization of needs using critical thinking while considering actions in relation to solving problems.
- To enable students to gain confidence in clinical decision making within the inter-professional and multi-agency environment.
- To consolidate theoretical knowledge and expertise gained throughout the previous years will be brought together enabling students to consolidate their learning and prepare them for professional practice as Registered Practitioners.

Learning Outcomes:

After completion of the course students are expected to be able to:

- Explore perspectives of critical care.
- Apply different frameworks to the differing needs of the critically ill patients and their families.
- Function effectively as newly registered nurses in their chosen area of practice.
- Analyze and respond to the needs of the family and significant others, when care is being provided in a critical care environment.
- Respect values, customs and beliefs of patients.
- Examine the impact of specific environments on critical care issues.
- Discuss how the critical care environment may impact upon patients and their families in relation to physical, psychological, socio-cultural and spiritual factors.
- Integrate theoretical and professional knowledge to practice situations to enable the

- delivery of holistic care to patients and significant others
- Contribute to the learning of peers by sharing knowledge.

Course Contents:

- Nursing: Evidence based care for deliberate self-harm. Evidence based care for the child in an acute / critical setting. Caring for the highly dependent patient across the life span. Caring for a patient with complex and inter-related health problems. Ethical issues in critical care: resource allocations, access to service, organ transplantation, care of the dying, brain-stem testing. Caring for acute exacerbation of chronic illness. Epidemiological and cultural approach to health care. Advanced Life Support (ALS).
 - Biological Perspectives: Biological basis of multi-organ failure. Biological basis for fluid administration.
 - Psycho-social Perspectives: The emotional impact of trauma. Working with ‘difficult’ behaviors in patients and families.
 - Professional Practice: Resuscitation / do not resuscitate, Organ transplantation issues Living wills / advanced directives. Handling complaints.
 - Conferencing: During conferencing the students will be discussing the fundamental knowledge and skills they must develop, with reference to specific examples and as to how this knowledge is applied to practice settings.
 1. The nurse’s role in managing a major incident.
 2. Epidemiology – societal changes.
 3. Caring for the critically ill at home.
 4. Clinical areas management skills.
 5. The nurse / patient relationship in critical care.
 6. Identifying abuse in children and adults.
 7. Managing the nutritional status for the critically ill patient.
- Risk management in critical care.

Learning Activities and Teaching Methods:

Lectures, Tutorials, Discussions, Skills sessions, Seminars / small groups, Simulation, Student directed learning, EBL

Assessment Methods:

Laboratory Practical Sessions, Tests, Final Examination

Required Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
The ECG made easy	J. Hampton	Edinburgh: Churchill Livingstone	2003	
Nursing Practice Hospital and Home	M. Alexander J. Fawcett, B. Runciman	Oxford Churchill Livingstone	2006	

Recomended Textbooks / Reading:

Title	Author(s)	Publisher	Year	ISBN
Principles of Biomedical Ethics	T. Beauchamp, J. Childress	Oxford Univ. Press	2001	