

SEP 19 2002



Course Outline

BRITISH COLUMBIA INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Operating Unit: Health Sciences

Program: Nursing

Option:

NURS 5061

**Clinical Pharmacology for
Health Care Professionals**

Start Date: September, 2000 *2002/12*

End Date:

Course Credits: 3

Term/Level: N/A

Total Hours: 36

Total Weeks: 12

Hours/Week: 3

Lecture:

Other: Distance Learning with Teletutoring

This course is offered through the Nursing Department.

Prerequisites

Course No. Course Name

Completion of the 2nd year of a health care
program such as nursing or related field

NURS 5061 is a Prerequisite for:

Course No. Course Name

None

Course Calendar Description

This course will present important concepts and principles related to pharmacology. The course will assist students to relate drug action(s) to human physiology and/or pathophysiology and to anticipate effects based on this understanding. Interventions related to monitoring client response to drugs will be emphasized. The role of the health care professional in health promotion and client teaching will be discussed. Drug classifications will be presented to assist the learner to appreciate the scope of pharmacological treatment and to sort, categorize and retrieve information about selected drugs.

Course Goals

NURS 5061 facilitates the development of a pharmacology knowledge base and an understanding of the legal and ethical responsibilities related to the administration of medications. The course emphasizes the need to continually update pharmacology knowledge in order to practice safely.

Evaluation

Midterm Exam (Multiple Choice Questions & Problem-based Exercise)	30%	To successfully complete this course, the student must: 1. Complete all assignments. 2. Achieve a combined average of 50% in exams. 3. Achieve a final mark of 50%.
Final Exam (Multiple Choice Questions & Problem-based Exercise)	35%	
Case Assignment #1	10%	
Case Assignment #2	10%	
Legal/Ethical Assignment	15%	
TOTAL	100%	

Course Learning Outcomes/Competencies

The student will:

1. Apply knowledge of pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics to selected drug categories.
2. Use a drug classification system as an information source for selected drugs.
3. Relate specific drug action(s) to human physiology and/or pathophysiology to predict therapeutic and adverse effects.
4. Explain assessments required when administering medications and monitoring clients for therapeutic drug effects, adverse effects, toxicity and drug interactions.
5. Discuss responsibilities related to health promotion and client teaching.
6. Discuss a variety of legal and ethical issues related to pharmacology.
7. Apply selected pharmacological concepts and principles to client situations.

Course Content Verification

I verify that the content of this course outline is current, accurate, and complies with BCIT Policy.

Program Head/Chief Instructor

Date

Note: Should changes be required to the content of this course outline, students will be given reasonable notice.

The course outline is a statement of educational intent and direction. It is not to be construed as a contract to deliver instruction or guarantee learning. BCIT reserves the right to amend this outline in cases when unforeseen circumstances may necessitate the alteration of course content, sequencing, timing or evaluation. In such cases, students will be given as much notice as is possible.

The following BCIT Policies apply to this course:

Policy #5013 Course Outline
Policy #5410 Evaluation of Students
Policy #5250 Cheating and Plagiarism



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Operating Unit: Health Sciences

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NURS 5061

**Clinical Pharmacology for
Health Care Professionals**

Instructor(s)

TBA

Office No.: TBA

Tutoring Hrs.: TBA

Office Phone: TBA

E-mail Address:

Learning Resources

Required:

1. Gutierrez, K. (1999). *Pharmacotherapeutics: Clinical decision making in nursing*. Toronto: W.B. Saunders.
 2. Canadian Nurses Association. (1997). *Code of ethics for registered nurses*. Ottawa: Author or own current professional code of ethics in your health care field.
 3. Registered Nurses Association of British Columbia. (1998). *Standards for nursing practice in British Columbia*. Vancouver: Author or own professional standards for practice ethical decision-making process.
 4. A drug handbook is required. Deglin, J., & Vallerand, A. (1999). *Davis's drug guide for nurses* (6th ed.). Philadelphia: F.A. Davis is strongly recommended.
 5. **A medical-surgical text is recommended.**
 6. **A laboratory and diagnostic tests handbook is recommended.**
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BCIT Policy Information for Students

Independent study and instructor tutoring will be used to assist the learner to expand their knowledge of pharmacology and related legal and ethical issues. Concepts and principles of pharmacology will be explored using required readings, patient case discussions and assignments.

Students are encouraged to participate in on-going evaluation of the course by providing feedback on course modules and assignments. A Course Evaluation Survey will be completed at the end of the term.

Examination Details

Midterm Exam

30% of Final Mark

(Multiple Choice Questions & Problem-based Exercise)

The Midterm Exam is a 2-hour open-book exam that includes multiple-choice questions and a problem-based patient case exercise. The exam is worth 70 marks and will include course content from Modules 1 to 8.

Multiple Choice Questions:	40 marks
Problem-Based Exercise:	30 marks

In Part 1 of the problem-based exercise, the student will be presented with initial information on the patient case. The student must explain at least five pharmacological issues and/or concerns related to this case. In Part 2 of the problem-based exercise, the student will be provided with additional information on the patient case. The student will then list additional issues and concerns and explain the specific actions they will take to provide safe and effective drug therapy for this patient. The patient case includes key issues and concerns that must be addressed to receive full marks.

Marks will be distributed as follows:

Marks

10	Part 1 – issues or concerns
<u>20</u>	Part 2 – specific actions for safe/effective therapy
30	Total

Final Exam

35% of Final Mark

Multiple Choice Questions and Problem-Based Exercise

The Final Exam is a 2-hour open-book exam that will focus on course content in Modules 9 to 16.

Multiple Choice Questions	40 marks
Problem-Based Exercise	45 marks

In the problem-based exercise, the student will be presented with a patient case. For Part 1 of the problem exercise, the student must list at least five pharmacological issues and/or concerns related to the patient's at-home drug therapy and provide an explanation of how these issues or concerns relate to the patient. For Part 2 of the problem-based exercise, the student will identify issues or concerns related to the patient's current in-hospital drug therapy and anticipated discharge. For each issue or concern, the student will describe appropriate actions or nursing intervention(s) and explain the rationale for these actions/interventions. The patient case includes key issues and concerns that must be addressed to receive full marks.

Marks will be distributed as follows:

Marks

10	Part 1 – issues and relationship to patient
<u>35</u>	Part 2 – issues, interventions and rationale
45	Total

Students must achieve a combined average of 50% on these exams.

* Initial patient case information will be provided to the student one week prior to each exam.

Assignment Details

Client Case Assignment #1

10% of Final Mark

Cardiac Drugs – Heart Failure: This assignment is designed to assist the student to apply their knowledge of geriatric pharmacology, drug actions, interactions and client teaching to a specific case.

Client Case Assignment #2

10% of Final Mark

Respiratory Drugs – Asthma: This assignment is designed to assist the student to apply their knowledge of pediatric pharmacology, drug actions, interactions and client assessment and monitoring to a specific case.

Legal/Ethical Paper

This assignment is designed to assist students to apply their knowledge of pharmacology and legal-ethical decision-making to a drug-related dilemma. The student will select one legal/ethical situation from the three situations provided. The following must be included in your paper:

- review of information related to the situation including diagnosis and pharmacological treatment
- discussion of how the selected decision making process relates to the situation
- discussion of the situation with other health care professionals
- action(s) taken to resolve the dilemma
- references used to support action(s)

You are expected to review relevant resources to assist your understanding of the situation. These resources should provide an in-depth understanding of the drugs in the situation and any alternative measures. Discussion with other health professionals is supported in the literature on ethical-decision making and should provide you with a broader perspective of the situation. You will use the RNABC Guidelines for Resolving Professional Practice Problems or Guidelines for Taking Action on Unacceptable Behavior as your decision-making process. (These processes are available on-line at <http://www.rnabc.bc.ca>)

Paper length should be 5 to 6 pages and must describe the action(s) you would take and how your action(s) is supported by your knowledge of the patient, the pharmaceutical agent(s), and the decision-making process. The knowledge of the pharmaceutical agents should be central to your resolution of the dilemma. The action(s) to resolve the dilemma must be clearly described in your paper.

The report is to be word-processed, double-spaced and can be sent via mail or as an e-mail attachment* to your tutor. All references cited in your paper must be included in the reference list. If you do not have a current copy of APA Manual (4th ed.), you can find guides to APA referencing, grammar and writing style on the Internet by searching for "APA style."

Marks will be assigned based on the following criteria:

10	accurate knowledge of the pharmaceutical agents
5	application of the decision-making process
5	perspective on the situation — broad view versus narrow view
10	action(s) supported by references/resources
30	Total

Papers can be submitted as an e-mail attachment in Word or WordPerfect format. Students are encouraged to call their tutor if they have any questions about this assignment.