

Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of Nursing Education  
Rural Nursing Certificate Program

RN 4803  
Emergency Nursing  
Credits 8

Course Outline

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**Grande Prairie Regional College  
Department of Nursing Education  
COURSE OUTLINE**

**RN 4803 - Emergency Nursing**

**MINIMUM COURSE HOURS:** 60

**CLASSROOM:** self-study      **LABORATORY:** 0      **CLINICAL:** 210

**CREDIT VALUE:** 8 credits

**COURSE PREREQUISITES:** University transferrable health assessment course,  
RN 4802 as a pre requisite or co-requisite.

**COURSE DESCRIPTION:**

This course provides the student with the theoretical knowledge and clinical experience necessary to work in an emergency department of a rural hospital. Theoretical components include assessment, interfacility transfer, medical emergencies such as chest pain, respiratory distress, abdominal pain, overdose, suicide attempts, as well as traumatic emergencies such as motor Vehicle accidents, burns, hypothermia, stab wounds, and amputations. The theory portion of the course is equivalent to 60 hours. The clinical practicum will normally occur over 5 - 6 weeks following completion of the theory component. This practicum will be a minimum of 210 hours.

**COURSE OBJECTIVES:**

Upon completion of the course the student will be able to:

1. Conduct a comprehensive health assessment on the emergency patient, within the context of the nursing process.
2. Relate pathophysiology concepts to the emergency patient's presenting complaint.
3. Demonstrate effective communication with patients, their families, and members of the interdisciplinary health care team.
4. Identify and draw inferences regarding priority nursing interventions in the care of the patient presenting with medical and/or trauma related conditions.
5. Develop and implement interventions for patients presenting with medical and/or trauma related conditions.

6. Describe and record comprehensive patient assessment. Findings and all nursing interventions.
7. Critically consider nursing and other research relevant to the care of the patient presenting with medical and/or trauma related conditions.

### **CORE COURSE CONTENT**

1. Assessment
2. The Initiation of Intravenous Therapy
3. Introduction to Trauma
4. Emergencies of the Head
5. Emergencies of the Neck and Spinal Cord
6. Chest and Abdominal Trauma
7. Trauma of the Extremities
8. Respiratory Emergencies
9. Interfacility Transfer
10. Neurological Emergencies
11. Deferential Diagnosis of Chest Pain
12. Abdominal and Genitourinary Emergencies
13. Endocrine and Metabolic Emergencies
14. Infectious Diseases
15. Environmental Emergencies
16. Toxicologic Emergencies
17. Psychiatric Emergencies

### **PRINCIPLES/CRITERIA:**

1. Students must have the required prerequisites: i.e. physical assessment course.
2. Student advisement for RN 4803 is an essential component prior to selection of the clinical practicum site. The student will have the name of a tutor to contact regarding any theoretical questions or concerns.
3. The course contains substantive nursing knowledge related to the practice of Emergency Nursing.
4. The knowledge to be learned has both theoretical and clinical application.
5. Adequate orientation to the clinical setting must be provided.
6. The supervision and guidance provided to the student must ensure safe practice and support the student's learning.

7. In the clinical setting the student will always have a R.N as a preceptor/mentor who has experience working in the emergency department of the given facility.
8. The Student's clinical component will be evaluated by the preceptor and monitored by the tutor and Program Coordinator.
9. Students must pass both the clinical and theoretical components in order to receive credit in the course.

### **CORE LEARNING EXPERIENCES**

1. This is a distance delivery, self-study course. Students work at their own pace using the study guide and text.
2. Applying the principles of triage, and performing primary and secondary surveys, and mental status examinations in the emergency department setting.
3. Identifying and providing appropriate nursing interventions for patients presenting to the rural Emergency Department.
4. Researching the community referral agencies that deal with physical and psychosocial emergencies in the community where the practicum is being provided.
5. Accompanying a patient being transferred to another facility by air as an observational experience, if at all possible.
6. 210 hours of clinical experience in a rural hospital emergency department must be satisfactorily completed with a RN preceptor.

### **METHOD OF EVALUATION**

#### **Theoretical**

The students will be evaluated on the basis of three written assignments, an Intravenous theory examination, a midterm multiple choice exam, and a final multiple choice exam. In addition the student will be required to demonstrate mastery in performing the following: a primary survey, a secondary survey, and a mental status exam. Competency will be evaluated by the preceptor.

#### **Assignment #1      Triage**

A short written assignment that has the student; a) analyze and compare the triage system used in the clinical facility with those in the text and b) look at the number and

type of patients which presented to the Emergency Department in the same facility over a 24 hour period. Mark allocation 10%.

**Assignment #2      Patient Assessment**

A short written assignment that has the student write a comprehensive, relevant, patient assessment using the SOAP documentation method. Mark allocation 10%.

**Assignment #3**

A two part written assignment that has the student a) research and report on the incidence of tuberculosis (TB) in the community in which they are working and b) write up a report of an interview with a patient who has been treated for TB in the recent past. Mark allocation 10%.

**Intravenous Theory Examination**

A short multiple choice exam. A grade of 85% is required to pass the Intravenous Theory examination.

**Midterm Exam**

A multiple choice examination that covers the theoretical content of the first nine modules. Mark allocation 30%.

**Final exam**

A comprehensive multiple choice examination that covers all the theoretical content with the major emphasis on the last eight modules. Mark allocation 40%.