

4.3 Medication Administration Exam

(Revised 4/6/2023)

The purpose of this policy is to provide a means of ensuring that students are competent in medication dosage calculation and administration as outlined by the 6 rights of medication administration (Right patient, right medication, right dose, right time, right route, and right documentation). Learning and evaluating emphases will be two major areas. One will be on the development of competent medication administration skills that include abilities in basic mathematics and conversion measurement systems for the accurate calculation of medication dosages. The second will be the emphasis on students' competencies in critical thinking, assuming responsibility, being accountable for their actions, and understanding the serious consequences of medication errors to patient safety.

Definition: A medication error is a dosage of medication that differs from that ordered by physicians or other providers holding prescriptive authority or from that of facility policy and procedures. Categories of medication errors are wrong patient, omission of medication, unauthorized drug, wrong dose, wrong route, wrong rate, incorrect administration techniques, wrong time, wrong preparation of a dose, improper transcription, improper documentation, disregard for allergy history, and failure to recognize and heed specific nursing implications for drugs.

Medication Administration Exam

1. All clinical courses will require a proctored medication administration exam consisting of ten (10) dosage calculation problems using either an on-screen calculator or a school-provided calculator (no personal calculators or cell phones allowed) and a demonstration of safe medication administration to be administered prior to attending actual clinical experiences. The length of the exam will be 60 minutes. Clinical courses administering medication exams and demonstrating of safe medication administration include NURS 3605, NURS 3615, NURS 3617, NURS 4628, NURS 4626, NURS 4338, and NURS 4634.
2. Dimensional analysis is the only teaching method for Medication Dosage Calculation with consistent exam formats across all clinical courses.
3. The student (including those testing in the testing center) will be provided a copy of the template attached at the end of this policy to show their work. This will be turned in at the end of the exam.
4. Students must achieve a grade of 100% to demonstrate clinical competency. Mandatory remediation with faculty will take place after each failed attempt to include a practice test to confirm student understanding. The student must demonstrate they understand their calculation errors prior to attempting an additional exam. An alternate exam should be provided for each retake attempt and the third attempt may be given on paper format.
5. If the student does not achieve a grade of 100% after three attempts, she/he will be placed on the BSN Medication Administration Success Plan (attached to this policy) with a plan for remediation, re-testing, and a specified deadline for passing the medication administration exam.

6. If the student is unable to achieve a grade of 100% on the medication administration exam by the deadline specified on the BSN Medication Administration Success Plan, she/he will receive a clinical failure for the course.

Approved: BSN Faculty Meeting 4/6/2023
Effective: Summer 2023 Semester

Name: _____ Course and Section: _____

Dosage Calculation Exam Answer Sheet - #_____

Use the space provided for each question to work out the dosage problem.

		Answer
1.		
2.		
3.		
4.		
5.		

		Answer
6.		
7.		
8.		
9.		
10.		

The University of Texas at Tyler School of Nursing

BSN Medication Administration Success Plan

Student Name:		
Instructor:		
Course:		
The student is at risk for being unsuccessful due to actions in the following category (select all that apply):		
☐ Medication Administration Competency: Scoring < 100% on the medication administration exam after three attempts		
Student Plan for remediation/success:		
Expected Behaviors	Consequences if not met	
1. Meet with clinical faculty for remediation and retesting	Student can not re-test until remediation is completed	
2. Prohibited from medication administration in the clinical setting	Clinical Failure and/or program dismissal if the student administers medications in the clinical setting before achieving a 100% on the Medication Calculation Exam	
3. Achieve 100% on Medication Administration Exam by Deadline: (set specific date)	Clinical Failure for not meeting clinical competency	
Documentation of Progression		
Date Met:	Action Taken:	Student and Faculty Initial
Acknowledgment of Receipt of Success Plan		
By signing this form, you confirm that you understand the information in this document. You also confirm that you and your faculty have discussed the success plan. Signing this form does not necessarily indicate that you agree. This form and supporting documentation will become part of your student file, and the respective program director will be notified.		
Student Signature	Name, printed or typed	Date:
Faculty Signature	Name, printed or typed	Date:

*Copies will be shared with the program director, site coordinator, advisor as appropriate. 4/6/2023