

4.3 Medication Administration Exam

(Updated 1/10/2019)

Nurses are legally and ethically bound to provide safe care to the patients/patients they serve. Schools of nursing strive to develop curricula to prepare student nurses for this professional role. Schools of nursing promote graduates' abilities to achieve success on the NCLEX as well as to model values to be safe clinicians. Concerns of faculty and findings from recent studies and reports highlight the increased need for improved patient safety. The SON requires that all nursing students assume accountability for the safe administration of medications in their student nurse role and in preparation for their professional role. In conjunction with this expectation, the SON advocates a supportive and sound teaching-learning environment for all students. Components of this environment include appropriate identification of student learning needs and subsequent enhancement and remediation opportunities to help students meet course standards. The SON advocates positive approaches to learning.

The purpose of this policy is to provide a means of ensuring that students are competent in medication administration. Learning and evaluating emphases will be in two major areas. One will be on the development of competent medication administration skills that includes abilities in basic mathematics and conversion measurement systems for the accurate calculation of medication dosages. 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 procedure. Categories of medication errors are: wrong patient, omission of medication, unauthorized drug, wrong dose, wrong route, wrong rate, incorrect administration technique, 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.

(Policy updated 1.30.2019)

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1. All clinical courses will require a medication administration exam to be administered prior to attending actual clinical experiences. Clinical courses administering medication exams include: NURS 3611, NURS 4632, NURS 4723, NURS 4631, NURS 3605, NURS 3615, NURS 4626, NURS 4628, and NURS 4634).
2. Students will have three attempts to achieve a grade of 100%. Remediation with faculty will take place after each failed attempt.
3. If the student does not achieve a grade of 100% after three attempts, she/he has failed the clinical component of the course and must withdraw from the course for the semester. A grade of "W" is recorded on the student's transcript.