

Common Course Outline

NURN 005

Dosage for Nurses

0 credit hours

The Community College of Baltimore County

Description

This course provides a review of the computations necessary to accurately compute drug problems. The course introduces the students to the metric system and IV calculations. Formulas for calculating drug dosage for nurses are presented.

Overall Course Objectives

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

1. Compute basic math problems without using a calculator
2. Perform computations with fractions and decimals without using a calculator
3. List the basic units of weight and volume used in the metric system and household systems
4. Give abbreviations for the frequently used metric and household units and sub-units
5. Convert units of measurement within the metric system, and between the metric system and the household system.
6. Interpret drug labels correctly
7. Select a dosage formula for calculating drug dosage
8. Calculate amount of tablets, capsules, and liquid volume needed for administering orally prescribed drugs
9. Calculate dosages of drugs supplied in units or mill-equivalents
10. Calculate dosages of drugs for injection from solutions in vials and ampules
11. Compute weight-based dosage
12. Prepare and calculate medications in powder form for injectable use
13. Differentiate between syringes labeled as cubic centimeters and units
14. Calculate hourly flow rate and drops/minute rate of IV fluids
15. Tell time using the 24 hour clock (military time)
16. Calculate all dosage problems according to the rounding rules provided
17. State the metric equivalent of house hold measurements

Major Topics

1. Review of fractions and decimals computations
2. Conversions of weights and volume in metric and household systems
3. Interpretation of drug labels

4. Ratio/proportion and formula solving for X
5. Weight based dosage
6. Military Time

Course Requirements

Grading/exams: The student will have 6 opportunities to pass a 20-item dosage exam with a score of 95%.

Other Course Information

This course is a pre-requisite to enrolling in NURN 150, Fundamentals of Nursing. Only students who have been provisional accepted into the nursing program are eligible to take this course

Required Text

Pickar, G. D. (2003). Dosage calculations (7th ed.). Albany, NY: Delmar Publishers

12/16/03