

Course Description

MEA 0242 | Pharmacology for the Medical Assistant | 3 credits

This course focuses on the principles and responsibilities of medical assistants in medication administration with emphasis on prescriptions, DEA regulations, storage, dosages, preparation and administration of non-parenteral and parenteral medications.

Course Competencies

Competency 1:

The student will describe the role of federal and state agencies in the regulation of drugs by:

- a. Identifying the legal standards and regulations at the federal level
- b. Identifying the legal standards and regulations at the state level
- c. Defining what is the Drug Enforcement Agency and its purpose

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information

Competency 2:

The student will be able to define terms related to drug classifications and actions by:

- a. Explaining general uses and action of drugs by specific categories.
- b. Identifying frequently used medications according to classes, systems, diseases, and conditions.
- c. Understanding pharmacological terminology
- d. Explaining drug actions including side effects, untoward effects, toxic effects, allergic reactions and interactions
- e. Identifying use of medications for different diseases and conditions

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively

Competency 3:

The student will be able to write a prescription (under provider supervision) by:

- a. Identifying prescription abbreviations
- b. Identifying the seven parts of a complete prescription
- c. Identifying the regulations for filling and refilling prescriptions

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Use computer and emerging technologies effectively

Competency 4:

The student will demonstrate the administration of medications by oral, intradermal, subcutaneous and in intramuscular by:

- a. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in oral administration
- b. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in intradermal administration
- c. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in subcutaneous administration
- d. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in intramuscular administration
- e. Identifying the seven rights and three verifications essential in the preparation and administration of medications

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Demonstrate an appreciation for aesthetics and creative activities

Competency 5:

The student will calculate and prepare correct dosages of medications using the metric, apothecary and household systems by:

- a. Identifying the metric, apothecary and household systems of measurement
- b. Demonstrating knowledge of dosage calculations
- c. Identifying the difference between parenteral and non-parenteral medications
- d. Identifying key parts of the medical label
- e. Identifying key parts of a prescription

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Use quantitative analytical skills to evaluate and process numerical data
- Solve problems using critical and creative thinking and scientific reasoning
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information

Competency 6:

The student will provide instruction to patient on prescribed medication by:

- a. Explaining correct techniques for administration of medication via all routes of administration (excluding intravenous medications) to patients
- b. Interpreting prescriptions for patients
- c. Creating patient education on the use of medications

Learning Outcomes

- Communicate effectively using listening, speaking, reading and writing skills
- Formulate strategies to locate, evaluate, and apply information