



Course Description

MEA0242 | Pharmacology for the Medical Assistant | 3.00 credits

This course is designed to introduce students to principles of pharmacology and provide a basis to comprehend the role and responsibility of Medical Assistants in administering medication. Emphasis will be placed on calculation of dosages, frequently used drugs, and classification of drugs as they relate to the body systems.

Course Competencies

Competency 1: The student will describe the role of federal and state agencies in the regulation of drugs by:

1. Identifying the legal standards and regulations at the federal level
2. Identifying the legal standards and regulations at the state level
3. Defining what is the Drug Enforcement Agency and its purpose

Competency 2: The student will be able to define terms related to drug classifications and actions by:

1. Explaining general uses and actions of drugs by specific categories.
2. Identifying frequently used medications according to classes, systems, diseases, and conditions.
3. Understanding pharmacological terminology
4. Explaining drug actions, including side effects, untoward effects, toxic effects, allergic reactions, and interactions
5. Identifying the use of medications for different diseases and conditions

Competency 3: The student will be able to write a prescription (under provider supervision) by:

1. Identifying prescription abbreviations
2. Identifying the seven parts of a complete prescription
3. Identifying the regulations for filling and refilling prescriptions

Competency 4: The student will demonstrate the administration of medications by oral, intradermal, subcutaneous, and intramuscular by:

1. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in oral administration
2. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in intradermal administration
3. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in subcutaneous administration
4. Demonstrating the correct technique steps in intramuscular administration
5. Identifying the seven rights and three verifications essential in the preparation and administration of medications

Competency 5: The student will calculate and prepare correct dosages of medications using the metric, apothecary, and household systems by:

1. Identifying the metric, apothecary, and household systems of measurement
2. Demonstrating knowledge of dosage calculations
3. Identifying the difference between parenteral and non-parenteral medications
4. Identifying critical parts of the medical label
5. Identifying critical parts of a prescription

Competency 6: The student will provide instruction to the patient on prescribed medication by:

1. Explaining correct techniques for administration of medication via all routes of administration (excluding intravenous medications) to patients
2. Interpreting prescriptions for patients
3. Creating patient education on the use of medication

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