THE READING HOSPITAL SCHOOL OF HEALTH SCIENCES NURSING PROGRAM POLICY NO. 329

SUBJECT: Calculation Quiz

Responsibility of: Curriculum Committee
Reviewed/Revised: November 2010

Purpose

To assist students' success in completion of calculation quizzes.

Procedure

All students are required to pass a medication calculation quiz in every clinical nursing (NUR) course (exception NUR 101). The purpose of the calculation quiz is to demonstrate clinical competency and provide patient safety. It is a requirement that each student must pass a calculation quiz with a 90% or greater in each NUR course prior to being permitted to administer medications in the clinical setting. Some courses may limit the number of times that a student may take repeat quizzes to achieve the benchmark. Failure to pass the calculation quiz according to course guidelines (syllabus) will result in a clinical (course) failure. Students who are unable to pass the calculation quiz and thus unable to administer medications will be given a clinical unsatisfactory/course failure for the semester. Calculators are permitted. However students are required to use the calculators purchased and distributed by the nursing program. It is the student's responsibility to bring their calculator to all classes for use in examinations and quizzes (calculation quizzes may be unannounced). Students who do not bring their calculators to class, will need to complete the calculation quizzes or exam questions without the aid of a calculator. Each calculation quiz will contain 10 questions related to 5 topics: dosage calculation, maximum dosage, pediatric calculations, IV administration including drip rates/drop factor and infusion rates, reading and interpreting medication labels and calculations. Questions may also include weight conversions. Students are required to memorize and utilize conversion factors to answer the questions. These conversion factors will not be provided to the student during the quiz/exam. Conversion factors include, but are not limited to the following:

1 Kilogram (Kg) = 2.2 pounds (lbs.)

16 ounces (oz.) = 1 pound (lb.)

1000 micrograms (mcg.) = 1 milligram (mg)

1000 milligrams (mg) = 1 Gram (GM)

1000 Grams (GM.) = 1 Kilogram (Kg)

1 milliliter (ml) = 1 cubic centimeter (cc)

2 tablespoons (TBS) = 30cc = 1 fluid ounce (oz.)

1 teaspoon (tsp) = 5 cubic centimeters (cc)

1 grain (gr 1) = 60 milligrams (mg)

1 Gram (Gm) = 15 grains (gr 15)

Students are permitted a maximum of 30 minutes to complete a 10 question quiz. All directions provided on the quiz must be followed. Answers must be in proper unit designations with all patient safety issues followed (correct abbreviations, etc). Answers with trailing zeros (a zero placed after a whole number) will be considered incorrect. Fractions less than one which are expressed as a decimal must contain a zero preceding the decimal. Multiply/divide all calculations to two decimal points. Do NOT round answers unless instructed to do so.