

University of Massachusetts Boston –College of Nursing and Health Sciences
Department of Nursing
NU670 Primary Care of the Adult Practicum

Course Information

Course Title: Primary Care of the Adult Practicum and Seminar
Credits: 6 credits: 3 credits of seminar, 3 credits of clinical = 225 clinical hours
Location:
Class Time: Tuesday 5:30-8:15PM

Course Description: Students refine their advanced practice skills in primary care with further attention to the application of theory and evidenced based knowledge to the role of the family or adult gerontological nurse practitioner caring for the adult patient. The assessment, diagnostic, therapeutic, evaluative, consultative, and teaching functions of the nurse practitioner role are examined within a professional, ethical, and legal framework. Students continue to gain experience in the comprehensive assessment and management of adults for health promotion as well as episodic and chronic illness. Seminar discussions include an exploration of special topics applied to hypothetical and real patient cases to explore issues of health and wellness across the adult life span, differential diagnosis of common health complaints of adults, and culturally competent comprehensive care. In this course the FNP or AGNP student formulates a capstone project aimed at improving access to, or quality of, care for diverse adult populations in their clinical placements. Diversity, health care disparities, and ethical issues will be discussed as they relate to the case discussions and clinical topics.

Context: Relationship to the program of study: This is the second/third practicum and clinical seminar for students in the Family and Adult Gerontological Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Tracks.

Prerequisites: NU638; NU639 either before or concurrently

Prerequisite

Skills: Ability to assess a patient in the primary care setting and offer health promotion services, including an advanced screening physical exam, case finding, basic differential diagnosis, documentation of advanced health assessment and plan of care, prescription writing, and patient education.

Course Objectives: Upon completion of this course, the learner will be able to demonstrate knowledge and skills consistent with Family or Adult-Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner competencies (according to the NP track in which the student is enrolled) found at:

<http://www.aacn.nche.edu/education-resources/npcompetencies.pdf>

as well as the objectives below:

1. Analyze differences between actual practice and evidence-based recommendations for assessments and interventions for common problems in the autonomous domain of nursing practice.
2. Synthesize advanced knowledge and skills required of the nurse practitioner providing episodic and comprehensive primary care to adult clients and families from a variety of cultural backgrounds.

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3. Demonstrate competence in completing comprehensive, episodic, or chronic illness oriented health histories and physical examinations of patients with common health problems/illnesses.
4. Design comprehensive interdisciplinary patient management plans congruent with the professional standards, evidence based practice, and health care resources.
5. Evaluate client responses to therapeutic and pharmacological regimens, monitor and evaluate continuity of care and participate to ensure quality health care practices.
6. Advocate for the patient to receive quality care tailored to their needs within their sociocultural framework.

Required Assignments:

Core readings in adult primary care topical areas -- see weekly schedule below. Also posted in BB

Topical Areas:

1. Application of NP Domains: Management of Health and Illness, Managing and Negotiating Health Care Delivery Systems, Ensuring Quality of Health Care Practices, Cultural Sensitivity; Professional Role Communication and Clinical Judgment; Patient communication; Clinical case presentations; Documentation; Legal Issues; CPT Coding; Evaluation and Management Coding
2. Evaluation and management in primary care: Differential diagnosis, lab data interpretation, diagnostic test ordering and interpretation, prevention of errors, prescription writing, pharmacologic management, EKG and PFT interpretation, episodic care, health education and lifestyle coaching, and health promotion in primary care to promote quality, cost-effective care.
3. Population level care: Populations at risk, application of community health principles, and utilization of community resources in primary care practice settings to address issues in the provision of care to populations of patients with communicable disease and non-communicable disease.
4. The Family and Adult Gerontological nurse practitioner in inter-professional practice: Collaboration with physicians and other colleagues in the provision of team-based, person-centered primary care of adults.

Teaching Strategies:

Precepted clinical practice; Team based learning; Seminar discussion; case presentations and peer review; on-line tutorials; literature review for cases and capstone project development; individual and group work for quizzes and worksheets; and collaborative work in clinical settings for capstone proposals.

Clinical Practicum:

In the clinical practicum, NP students are expected to develop professional relationships with their clinical preceptors and their patients. The NP students should review the course objectives ahead of starting the clinical practicum, develop a method for communicating case findings with the preceptor, and offer to be as helpful to the preceptor and practice as possible. Student NPs should arrive well ahead of time, review the preceptor's clinical schedule with them, and identify the best patients for their experience under the preceptor's guidance. Students are expected to be in professional attire, wear a lab coat with

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UMass Boston name badge, and carry their own stethoscope. Student NPs are also expected to use available resources to look up guidelines for patients to provide state-of-the-art primary health care, as well as to review current literature to best address the patients' unique complaints and conditions with the most up-to-date information based on sound scientific evidence. Students are to demonstrate skills in providing person-centered care for the individuals and families appropriate to their sociocultural background with their case write-ups and presentations. Whenever possible, students should seek out further learning opportunities within their preceptor's practice, for instance by shadowing other colleagues with interesting patients, following-up with patients by phone to assess outcomes of treatments, providing health education, implementing coaching strategies, and using resources to access more information (such as through searching the current literature) for comprehensive care. Students should always remember they are guests of the practice, ambassadors for the University of Massachusetts Boston, and be polite and professional in all interactions. Patient dignity and confidentiality should be respected to the utmost; when bringing questions or examples of cases to the classroom, no information that could identify patients in the practice can be used. In addition to the minimum 225 hours of practicum, students must achieve clinical competencies noted on the practicum evaluation at a performance level of at least 3 out of 5 in each skill area by the end of the practicum. If this competency level is not achieved, then more clinically precepted time will be negotiated until competency is achieved.