Clinical Practicum (Gerontological Nursing Practice)

Module Leader: Anna C Ayton, MSc, RGN
ECTS: 10
No. of Hours: See Appendix VII

Pre-requisite: See Appendix VII

Aims
This practice module will complement the theoretical component of the course, by allowing the student to apply specialist gerontological concepts within a specialist practice setting.

Working methods
The module comprises three supernumerary placements, within acute admission and assessment, rehabilitation and continuing care settings. This is further complimented by the requirement for students to work, for the duration of the programme, within gerontological nursing.

Learning Outcomes

Acute Admission & Assessment
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Perform comprehensive, accurate assessments of Gerontological nursing practice using an appropriate framework
- Critically evaluate the use of effective communication skills when planning and implementing care
- Utilise specialist knowledge to co-ordinate care in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team
- Contribute to service provision which incorporates safe practice and promotes patient dignity and respect
- Evaluate patient/carer responses to interventions and negotiate changes to plan with patients and their carers
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the concept of multiple pathology and the implications for caring for older persons
- Practice in an ethical manner that reflects knowledge, insight and clinical judgement in the management of patients including collaboration, consultation, referral and discharge planning

Rehabilitation
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
- Apply the principles of rehabilitative nursing to practice
- Promote the maximisation of the older person’s potential by carrying out holistic assessments in partnership with the person and his/her carer
- Identify the members of the multidisciplinary health care team and their role in a rehabilitative setting
• Liaise with, and utilise specialist knowledge to co-ordinate the care of the older person with the multidisciplinary team members
• Participate, as an active member of the multidisciplinary team at case conferences, ward rounds and family meetings
• Demonstrate a problem solving multi disciplinary approach to the promotion and maximisation of rehabilitation and independence in older people

Continuing Care
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
• Provide nursing care that reflects knowledge, insight and ethically sound clinical judgement
• Embrace a partnership approach to care planning, using valid and reliable evidence based tools which includes the older person in appropriate goal setting
• Advocate for the health needs of older adults and especially those with reduced decision making capacity
• Acknowledge the older person’s continued need to express his/her sexuality
• Promote a positive caring environment based on mutual trust and respect
• Ensure the older person is facilitated with the appropriate support to adapt to significant life events eg loss of home/independent living/significant people in their lives
• Ensure physical, psychological, social and spiritual care is provided for the dying person and his/her carer

Overall
On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:
• Critically appraise the role of the specialist Gerontological nurse
• Critically explore the potential for the expansion of Gerontological nursing practice
• Contribute to and inform the development and implementation of policies and protocols which guide best practice in caring for patients in a Gerontological care setting

100% attendance on clinical placements is also a requirement of this course.

Syllabus
This module is a practical application of the concepts and content inherent in the specialist gerontological modules.

Mode of Assessment
Three formative assessments of clinical competency using the Clinical Assessment Document.

Reading List:


