Clinical Practicum (Gerontological Nursing Practice)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Leader</th>
<th>Anna C Ayton, RGN, MSc Gerontological Nursing, BN (Distinction) Dip Higher Education Nursing</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Lecturer</td>
<td>Preceptors in the clinical placement setting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECTS</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pre-requisite</td>
<td>As per course entry criteria</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Rationale and 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.

Module Content

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

The module comprises three clinical placements, within acute admission and assessment, rehabilitation and continuing care settings for the older person. This is further complimented by the requirement for students to practice, for the duration of the programme, within a care of the older person setting.

Learning Outcomes

On successful completion of this module, students should be able to:

- Demonstrate a crucial understanding of the concept of multiple pathology and the implications for caring for older persons
- Demonstrate an understanding of dementia, delirium and depression
- Embrace a person centred approach to care planning, using valid and reliable evidence-based tools which includes the older person in appropriate goal setting
- Practice in an ethical manner that reflects, knowledge, insight and clinical judgement in the management of patients, including collaboration and consultation
- Demonstrate an awareness of the sensory losses experienced by older adults which can result in communication barriers
- Demonstrate specific knowledge of pharmacological issues in Gerontological nursing practice
- Critically evaluate current research findings designed to promote and maximise the functional abilities of the older person in a variety of care settings
- Demonstrate a critical understanding of the ageing process and theories of ageing
- Utilise specialist knowledge, gained through the theoretical component of the programme, to co-ordinate care in collaboration with the multidisciplinary team
- Acknowledge the older person’s continued need to express his/her sexuality
- Participate, as an active member of the multidisciplinary team at case conferences, ward rounds and family meetings
Acute Admission & Assessment

- Perform comprehensive, accurate assessments of Gerontological nursing practice using an appropriate framework
- 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

Rehabilitation

- 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
- Liaise with, and utilise specialist knowledge to co-ordinate the care of the older person with the multidisciplinary team members
- Demonstrate a problem solving multi disciplinary approach to the promotion and maximisation of rehabilitation and independence in older people

Continuing Care

- Advocate for the health needs of older adults and especially those with reduced decision making capacity
- 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.

Methods of Assessment

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

Indicative Resources


