

Gerontological Nursing Learning Activity

Topic	Medicine Cabinet Audit
Description	An assignment that explores the pathophysiology, pharmacology, and comprehensive assessment of an older adult client.
When is it introduced?	Senior year
Preparation	Students have completed a course in pathophysiology and pharmacology prior to doing the assessment.
Assignments	<p>Students complete this assignment as part of a clinical rotation. Students select a client that they feel will offer the best learning experience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory the contents of a medicine cabinet of someone not living with you and over the age of 65 preferably with complex chronic illnesses. • Complete a nursing assessment (including interview reviewing current medical problems, past history of pertinent health problems, past family medical history, their understanding of their medications, living situation/environment, etc. (see the medicine cabinet template) on this client and combine with the medicine cabinet data. • Analyze these data for potential and actual drug interactions as well as other problem areas. • Develop a patient teaching plan to address the top two problems requiring nursing action that you formulate based on your holistic assessment.
Student Evaluation	<p>The entire assignment must be in a MS WORD document and in correct APA format (including title page, body of paper, references and appendix).</p> <p><u>Grading Criteria:</u> Comprehensive assessment using holistic framework (bio/psycho/social/cultural/spiritual) Pathophysiology of disease processes Thorough Drug workup (mechanism of action, recommended dosage, patient education, etc.) Accurate patient teaching plan APA format</p>
Strengths	Opportunity to synthesize and apply pathophysiology & pharmacology knowledge in a clinical setting.
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Revised:	April 2009

Resources for Teaching Nursing Care of Older Adults

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The John A. Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence at Oregon Health & Science University
Website: www.ohsu.edu/hartfordcgne