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| **UNIT SPECIFICATION** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Unit Name:** Systematic Assessment of the Critical Ill Patient | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Level** | Level 7 | | | | | | Credit value | | | 20 (10 ECTS) | | | |
| **Is this a common unit?** | | | | | No | | | **Expected contact hours for unit** | | | | | 35 hours |
| **Owning Department** | | | | HSS | | | | **Owning Programme** | | | | CPD | |
| **Programme(s) where the unit is delivered**: Critical Care | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Pre and co-requisites****:** Students should have a minimum of 12 months recent Critical Care experience and nurses must have completed National Step 1 competencies (CC3N 2023) | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Aims**The aim of this unit is to enhance the student’s knowledge base relating to physiological processes, to develop their ability to assess critically ill patients and to enable them to plan appropriate nursing management for patients in their care. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Intended learning outcomes (ILOs)**   1. Undertake and critically reflect upon a comprehensive assessment of the critically ill patient, demonstrate knowledge of anatomy, pathophysiology and the interpretation of supportive medical data used within the critical care setting. 2. Evidence grounded critical thinking skills, appraising and utilising current research and evidence to develop a patient centred plan of care. 3. Critically evaluate the effectiveness of care interventions and develop appropriate communication strategies within the health care team to maintain patient safety. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Learning and teaching methods**  The student will encounter a variety of lectures, seminars, tutorials, simulations and self-managed learning. They will spend a minimum of 90 hours engaged in direct practice in their own clinical area, where he/she will be allocated a clinical supervisor. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Assessment** | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Formative assessment/feedback**  Outcome 1 will be formatively assessed by completion of an anatomy and physiology workbook and in class test, as well as a student case study presentation on day 5 with tutor and peer feedback.  Academic tutorial and clinical feedback will also be offered. | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Summative assessment** [Guidance for completion](#summative_guidance) | | | | | | | | | **Indicative assessment** [Guidance for completion](#indicative_guidance) | | | | |
| **Assessment** | | **ILOs assessed** | | | | **Percentage weightings** | | | This will be via a 20 minute structured presentation (as per unit guide) based on a client they have nursed who has multi-system failure (failure of two or more systems) (3,000 words equivalent) | | | | |
| **Examination** | |  | | | |  | | |
| **Coursework 1** | | **1, 2, 3** | | | | **100%** | | |
| **Coursework 2** | |  | | | |  | | |
| **Indicative unit content**   * Homeostatic Principles * Respiratory System and Supportive Therapies * Cardiovascular System and Haemodynamic Monitoring * Cardiovascular Support Therapies * Fluid Balance * Renal System and Supportive Therapies * Nervous System and Supportive Therapies * Immunology * Gastrointestinal System and Supportive Therapies * Infection and Infection Control * Pharmacokinetics * Role of the Nurse in ICU * Communication techniques * Psychological care | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Indicative learning resources**  **Books** (also see list from Pre-Course Workbook)  Anand,R. DeWilde, S. Page, C.P., Greenstein, B. and Trounce, J.R. 2022. *Trounce's Clinical Pharmacology for Nurses* [Electronic Resource]. 19th Ed. London: Elsevier.  Goldworthy. S and Graham, L., 2014. Compact Clinical Guide to MECHANICAL VENTILATION Foundations of Practice for Critical Care Nurses. [Electronic Resource]. New York. Springer Publishing Company.  Gould, D., and Brooker, C., 2000. *Applied Microbiology For Nurses.* Macmillan Press Ltd (old but good)  Hess, D., and Kacmarek, R.M. 2019. Essentials of Mechanical Ventilation.4th Ed. New York. McGraw-Hill Education  ICS. 2015. Handbook of Mechanical Ventilation: a user’s guide. Digital Online.  Marieb, E. N. 2017. *Essentials of Human Anatomy & Physiology*. 12th Ed., International Ed. Boston, Benjamin Cummings.  Morton, P. G. and Thurman. P., 2023. *Critical Care Nursing: A Holistic Approach*, 12th Ed Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer Health.  Pinsky, M. R., Teboul, JL., and Vincent. JL.(Eds). 2019. Haemodynamic Monitoring – Lessons from ICU series. Switzerland. Springer.  Porth, C. 2015. *Essentials of Pathophysiology: Concepts of Altered Health States*. 4th Ed., International Ed. Philadelphia. London: Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams & Wilkins.  Tortora, G. J. and B. Derrickson. 2014. *Principles of Anatomy & Physiology. EMEA Edition.* 14th Ed. Hoboken, N.J. Wiley.  Truwit, J. D and Epstein, S. K. 2011. A Practical Guide to Mechanical Ventilation. West Sussex, UK. Wiley-Blackwell.  *Journals*  British Journal of Intensive Care Intensive Care Medicine  British Journal of Nursing (critical care) Journal of Advanced Nursing  Care of the Critically Ill Journal of Professional Nursing  Intensive and Critical Care Nursing | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| **Version number** | | | 1.0 | | | | | **Date Effective from** | | | September 2025 | | |