School of Nursing and Midwifery

Critical Care - NUR-30158 (Level 6 Module: 30 Credits)

Module Profile

Studying Critical Care

Module overview

This module aims to attract practitioners working within Critical Care who wish to enhance evidence based knowledge and analytical skills in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care that Critical Care patients (level 2 & 3) and families receive. It acknowledges the dynamic and critical situation of the patient and the practitioners role within this context whilst seeking to develop individual expertise. The individuality and diversity of practitioners and specialised units is recognised by a varied and broad curricula which is designed to develop a competent practitioner with transferable critical care skills. This module forms part of the Graduate Certificate (Critical Care), following the core curricula outlined in the Critical Care Nurse Education (2016) document, where the achievement of the outcomes are further complimented by the simultaneous undertaking of the Clinical Practice module, where the practitioner has the opportunity to complete all of the given outcomes in their own clinical setting, guided by a focused and specific clinical competency framework. The final module within the Graduate Certificate (Critical Care) is the Evidence Based Practice module, which facilitates the application of theory to the practitioners’ own practice area.
Who is it for?
The module is appropriate to health professionals who currently practice within a Critical Care environment. Clinical Practice, NUR-30163 is taken alongside the module which is supported by the National Competency Framework for Adult Critical Care Nurses 2015 (Steps 2&3). Details can be found on a separate flyer.

Entry Requirements
Normally hold a Professional registration with an appropriate body and with a minimum of 12 months current clinical experience in Critical Care, and completion of Step 1 competencies (CC3N, 2016).

Module Aims
Therefore the aim of the Critical Care pathway is to enhance evidence based knowledge and analytical skills in assessing, planning, implementing and evaluating care that Critical Care patients and families receive - considering both acute and chronic conditions within the context of contemporary healthcare policy.

Module Content
Evidence based practice including the use of care bundles
Respiratory physiology and pathophysiology including blood gas analysis
Causes of respiratory failure
Respiratory management including - Invasive and non-invasive ventilation (modes & weaning), BIPAP, CPAP, oxygen therapy and administration. The use of artificial airways and adjuncts.
Cardiac physiology and pathophysiology including coagulation, ECG interpretation, shock
Cardiac disease processes and cardiac emergencies/ arrhythmias
Haemodynamic monitoring techniques/skills to include arterial, central venous pressure and mixed methods of cardiac output measurement.
Therapeutic management of a patient undergoing cardiac intervention & surgery including TEG, blood products, blood conservation strategies
Management of shock - including sepsis, cardiogenic, neurogenic, anaphylactic, hypovolaemic.
Pathophysiology and management of renal and liver disorders
Fluid management
Management of renal injury including renal replacement therapies and its related modes of treatments.
Pathophysiology of the gastro-intestinal tract, disorders and nutrition
Immunology and Endocrinology physiology including diabetic emergencies
Neurology physiology and disorders - including temperature regulation, and cerebral vasular disorders
Monitoring and observational assessment inclusive of neurological assessment/observations
Infection prevention issues including sepsis management, care bundle and survive sepsis campaign
Assessment and monitoring of all systems
Preparation for and post operative management
Management of acute situations/emergencies including Advanced Life support skills
Management of multi-organ failure
Trauma management
Assessment of health & diagnostic reasoning
Diagnostic investigations - management & interpretation
Pharmacology including inotropes, vasopressors, sedation, analgesia, cardiac therapy
Psychological care of the critically ill - including sensory deprivation, overload, sleep disorder and delirium
Interprofessional working to include communication with patients, families and multidisciplinary team
Human Factor Training
Reflective practice, professional & contemporary issues in Critical Care
Political, legal, ethical,sociological and moral dilemmas for the Critical Care nurse
Relatives/ significant others influences/ needs for the nurse
End of life care/issues- including brain stem death, & organ donation

Assessments
3000 word critical review
Poster & defence

To find out more visit: www.keele.ac.uk/nursingandmidwifery/cpd/postreg/modules/
or email: nursing.cpd@keele.ac.uk