Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi
College of Nursing and Health Sciences

NURS 4660.E01

Nursing Care of Community Health Clients

Explores Community Health Nursing, focusing on historical development, philosophy, health care systems, epidemiology, and specific target groups. Primary, secondary and tertiary prevention activities are emphasized as they relate to individuals, families, and aggregates. Applies theoretical and empirical knowledge in using the nursing process in community settings to promote, maintain and restore health. Focuses on transcultural nursing concepts, rural and home health care delivery. Progressively more independent behaviors are expected of students in community health practice. Diverse roles of the community and public health nurse are examined and a community assessment is completed using research and data processing skills.

Conclusion of this course requires successful completion of a HESI (Health Education Systems Inc.) exam. Contact the eLine Advisor for details about arranging to take this exam when you register for this course.

Course Objectives

1. Identify the philosophy, goals, past, present and emerging roles of community-oriented nursing practice.
   - Distinguish between public health, community health and community-based nursing practice.
   - Describe the historical development of public health, public and community health nursing and the transformation of the health care system domestically and globally.
   - Compare and contrast ethical theories and principles inherent in the core functions of community-oriented nursing practice.
   - Describe laws and functions of government that affect community-oriented nursing practice, health policy and health care delivery.
   - Compare organizing theories, conceptual models and paradigms applied to community-oriented nursing practice.

2. Apply a systematic approach to defining the concept of community as a client and for assessing and analyzing community health status.
   - Explain the epidemiological approach to understanding disease, and identifying the causes of disease.
   - Interpret the use of epidemiology in determining indicators of community health status and indicators of risk.
   - Explain the relationship between the environment and human health and disease.
   - Analyze the relationship between primary health care, health promotion, disease prevention.
   - Identify methods to assess the health risks of individuals, families, Aggregates, communities and cities.
Identify population-based educational objectives that serve as a guide for community health education programs.
- Identify community resources integral to community health objectives.
- Analyze the relationship of evidence-based practice to community-oriented nursing practice.

3. Analyze family health promotion and disease prevention strategies across the lifespan.

- Analyze family structures, functions, behavioral patterns, needs, tasks and coping mechanisms.
- Relate individual and family health to community health.
- Describe community-oriented approaches to family health risk reduction.
- Apply primary, secondary, and tertiary prevention strategies to family and community-focused mental health problems.
- Use the epidemiological method to evaluate the effectiveness of health services.

4. Explain the transactional nature of health status.

- Analyze trends that have influenced vulnerability within certain population groups and social attitudes toward vulnerability.
- Summarize the relationship of genetic, social and cultural variables to the health status of communities and population groups.
- Identify social and cultural barriers to accessing the health care system for population groups, locally, nationally and globally.
- Identify how community organizations (voluntary, governmental, business, labor, and faith based) collaborate, prepare for, and respond to disasters and bio terrorism.

Clinical Objectives

1. Apply the nursing process in the community oriented care of selected families, groups and communities.

- Assessment
  - Use the epidemiological method to identify the health status of the population to which the family belongs, understand the determinants of health and disease in the communities where the family resides, and investigate and evaluate interventions to prevent disease and maintain health of the family.
  - Use a social science theoretical framework to assess the physical; developmental, environmental, psychosocial, and spiritual influences on the family within the community.
  - Identify potential and actual stressors and risk factors that influence client/family/community system.
  - Assess behavioral patterns, needs, coping patterns, and resources of the client/family system.
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- Identify and resolve differences in health perceptions of the caregiver and client; family and community.

  • **Diagnosis**
    - Identify actual and potential risk factors affecting the family.
    - Employ diagnostic criteria for early detection of health problems.
    - Collaborate with the client, family to define and prioritize problems.
    - Analyze the natural history of disease in determining the etiology of health problems.
    - Identify the nursing needs of clients.

  • **Planning**
    - Encourage client/family responsibility for setting goals and implementing health care practices – including health promotion, disease prevention, health care and restoration.
    - Contract with the client to develop a plan of care based on identified needs and resources.
    - Identify long-term and short-term goals that are consistent with identified problems.

  • **Implementation**
    - Assist the family to use primary, secondary or tertiary methods of intervention.
    - Demonstrate self-reliance in working interdependently.
    - Participate actively with families in meeting health needs.
    - Base nursing practice decisions on evidence-based research.
    - Implement a health teaching plan appropriate to the learner.

  • **Evaluation**
    - Mutually evaluate, reassess, and summarize progress toward goals at regular intervals.
    - Make decisions to modify, renegotiate, or terminate nursing activities in collaboration with client and family.

2. Apply the group process in community-oriented nursing practice.
   - Use interpersonal skills which facilitate effective group process.
   - Participate in planning, implementing, and evaluating team activities.
   - Evaluate group effectiveness and makes recommendations for improvement.
   - Evaluate personal, leadership, group, and problem-solving behaviors.

3. Communicate sensitivity and respect in caring for clients, families, communities and groups.
   - Practice client-centered communication, focusing on client-identified needs rather than provider-identified problems.
   - Express positive feelings for individuals families and communities with regard to cultural beliefs, values, norms and expressions.
   - Respond with empathy to individuals’ and families’ expressions of feelings and coping behaviors.
   - Display a nonjudgmental attitude toward individuals families and communities with regard to their needs, characteristics, and feelings.
4. Synthesize learning from the biological, psychological, and social sciences into the nursing process to promote community focused health in families and groups.

- Modify the nursing process in selected nurse-family situations to promote, maintain and restore health.
- Integrate knowledge of developmental/situational crises into nursing care of selected families.
- Integrate research findings into community focused nursing practice decisions in the community.
- Assess the community health needs of an identified neighborhood from a social systems perspective.
- Apply a systematic method of documenting and evaluating client/family care.
- Apply the teaching/learning process to families and groups.
- Evaluate community-focused nursing roles in the community.
- Apply the principles of primary, secondary and tertiary prevention in the community setting.

5. Accept responsibility for independent professional judgments and behavior.

- Evaluate personal strengths and limitations in relationship to professional behavior.
- Validate nursing actions on the basis of professional standards and accepted research findings.
- Demonstrate self-reliance in working independently and interdependently.
- Identify ethical and legal principles relevant to community nursing.
- Demonstrate safe and competent practice.
- Demonstrate accountability for behavior.

**eLine Modules**

PRB 206: Introduction to Community Health Nursing  
PRB 217: National and International Health Care Systems  
PRB 218: Foundations of Community Health Nursing  
PRB 219: Caring for Individuals and Families in the Community  
PRB 220: Community as Client  
PRB 221: Care of Populations in Specialized Settings  
CLB 203: Community Health Clinical

Modules listed below apply to more than one course in the curriculum. In eLine, this content does not need to be taken again. The grade for the completed module will automatically be applied to each course of which it is a part.

PRA101: Legal and Ethical Issues In Nursing  
PRA102: Application of Current Literature and Research  
PRA201: Therapeutic Communication  
PRA204: Resource Organization