Module G: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for Patients with Common Health Problems of the Reproductive System

1. Statement of Purpose

A person’s self-concept and self-worth is related to his or her sexuality. Its foundation is the reproductive system which not only provides for biological gender determination but also the psychological, sociological, and cultural aspects of being male or female. The nurse must be familiar with his/her own sexual concepts and identity in order to meet the sensitive needs of the patient.

Health problems of the reproductive system occur throughout the life span and can affect optimal recovery as well as psychosexual growth and development. This module presents common health problems that affect the reproductive system and requiring patient education, understanding and support, and intervention by the nurse.

2. Terminology

Menarche                       Pelvic Inflammatory Disease
Amenorrhea                     Endometriosis
Menorrhagia                    Conization
Dysmenorrhea                   Hysterectomy
Premenstrual Syndrome         Salpingectomy
Menopause (climacteric)        Oophorectomy
Papanicolaou Smear             Dilatation and Curettage
Culdoscopy                     Circumcision
Colposcopy                     TURP (Transurethral Resection
Laparoscopy                    of Prostate)
Hysteroscopy                   Cryptorchidism
Cystoscopy                     Orchiopexy
Mammography                   Phimosis
Thermography                   Priapism
Mastectomy                    Dyspareunia
Infertility                    Libido
Sterility                      Impotence
                           Sexually Transmitted Disease
                           (STD)

3. Classroom Objectives

3.1

a. Describe diagnostic tests used to determine alterations in
functioning of the male and female reproductive organs.

b. Relate the physiology of menstruation and menopause with psychosocial and cultural considerations.

c. Identify the educational and counseling needs of patients with various sexually transmitted diseases.

d. Compare the various conditions of the uterus and ovaries with regard to their nursing, medical, surgical, chemotherapeutic and radiological intervention.

e. Discuss detection, treatment modalities, and nursing interventions in managing breast cancer.

f. Describe the physical, psychosocial, cultural, and rehabilitative needs of the patient having a mastectomy.

g. Compare and contrast different types of surgical intervention for cancer and hyperplasia of the prostate.

h. Explain the physiological functioning of the male reproductive system.

i. Discuss the nursing management, including psychosocial and cultural aspects, of patients with cancer of the male and female reproductive organs.

j. Describe the pediatric conditions of the male and female reproductive organs which could alter sexuality and fertility in later years.

k. Identify birth control options for men and women.

3.2 Learning Activities

a. Review anatomy and physiology of the reproductive system.

b. Know terminology.

c. Read current articles as assigned by instructors.

d. Review your own personal feelings towards sexuality, identity, and gender roles.

e. Share, in class, your experiences with cultural, psychosocial and religious aspects of sexuality and reproduction.

***f. Investigate community services that provide patient education in the areas of sexuality, contraception, STDs, self-breast exam, female cancer screening, and self-testicular exam.

g. Discuss, in class, the types and effects of inflammatory and structural disorders of the reproductive tract in females and males.

h. View assigned videos and computer software.

*** Not required of the VN student.

3.3 References

a. Anatomy & Physiology textbook

b. Required textbooks
4. Clinical Objectives
   a. Observe and assist with a gynecological examination.
   b. Assess assigned patients for evidence of gynecological disturbances.
   c. Develop a nursing care plan for a patient having a
      (1) hysterectomy, (2) mastectomy, (3) prostatectomy.
   d. Teach a patient how to perform Self-Breast Examination.
   e. Provide nursing care, which includes physical and psychological support,
      to a patient having a mastectomy or a vulvectomy.
   f. Prepare a plan for teaching arm exercises to a patient following a
      mastectomy.
   g. Teach a patient how to perform a self-testicular examination.

*** Not required of the VN student.

5. Skills Laboratory Requirements
   a. Demonstrate skill in performing and teaching self-breast examination and
      self-testicular exam.
   b. Perform and teach post mastectomy arm exercises.
   c. Review vaginal irrigations (douches).
   d. Review insertion of vaginal suppositories.
   e. Assisting physician with physical examination

References
   a. Required texts
   b. Videos/Handouts/CAI