Module H: Application of the Nursing Process in Caring for Patients with Stress Adaptations Related to Separation, Loss, Death and Dying, and Pain

1. Statement of Purpose

The nurse plays an important role in assisting the patient to adapt to the emotional impact of separation from family and home which occurs as a result of illness and hospitalization. Coping (defense) mechanisms are brought into use according to the patient's age, past experiences and cultural heritage. The nurse must assist the patient to maximize his/her ability to respond to changes brought about by illness and hospitalization.

Death is often viewed as the ultimate separation. Nurses can best provide supportive nursing care during and after the grieving and dying process. A caring and responsive nurse can make the difference to the patient and to the family in successfully completing this difficult time.

2. Terminology

Phases/Stages of Grief
Bereavement
Mourning
Stress
Adaptation
Coping
Euthanasia
Ethical Dilemma
Separation Anxiety
Theories of Pain
Pain Threshold
Biofeedback
Endorphins
Sensory Deprivation/Overload

3. Classroom Objectives

3.1

a.1. Contrast the effects of illness and hospitalization on patients of differing age groups, incorporating knowledge of growth and development and cultural heritage.

a.2. The VN student will list the effects of illness and hospitalization on patients of differing age groups incorporating knowledge of growth and development and cultural heritage.

b. Explain the nurse’s role in assisting the patient and the family to adapt to a short hospital stay; a long hospital stay.

c. Identify common medications used for pain relief, giving common name, dosage, actions, side effects and rationale for use.

d.1 Analyze the results of sensory deprivation and overload on the short
and long term hospitalized patient.

d.2. The vocational nursing student will describe the results of sensory deprivation and overload on a short and long term hospitalized patient.
e. Discuss the nurse's role in assisting a dying patient and the family to successfully complete the grieving process.
f. View the assigned videos and computer software.

3.2 Learning Activities
a. Know terminology at beginning of module.
b. Review material discussed in VN110 regarding comfort, rest, sleep, perception of pain.
c. Complete a simulated admission to a hospital using the format designed by the instructors.
d. Using a simulated situation complete the following:
   1) a nursing history - see ADN/VN handout
   2) a nursing care plan - IVC format
e. Using group discussion of above situation, identify nursing implications according to age and background of patient.
f. In class, discuss relief of pain which results from the use of medications and non-medication techniques.
g. Discuss, in class, the grieving process. Be able to recognize the behavior implicit in the stages of grief.
h. Review your personal reactions to sickness and death. Share your feelings if you wish to.
i. Discuss, in class, the legal/ethical issues surrounding the maintenance of life support systems on patients.
j. View assigned videos and computer software.

3.3 References
a. Required textbooks

4. Clinical Objectives
a. Complete the admission process of an assigned patient.
b. Complete a physical and mental status assessment on an assigned patient using the guidelines provided with this module.
c. Administer medications to an assigned patient (except I.V. medications).
d. Monitor and discontinue IV fluids correctly.
e. Administer total, individualized care to assigned patients.
f. Administer medications, utilizing the knowledge of the reason, action, dosage, complication and side effects.
g. Interact with staff personnel in planning implementing and evaluating nursing care.
h. Utilize communication skills in developing interpersonal relationship with the patient and family.
i. Participate in health teaching for the elderly patient.
j. Participate in clinical care conferences during patient and student conference.
k. Record and report all objective and subjective data collected and document nursing actions taken.
l. Develop and present a nursing care conference, pertaining to the elderly patient, on a chosen topic.
5. **Skills Laboratory Requirements**

   a. Review administration of oral and parenteral (except IV) medications.
   b. Review nursing care plans.
   c. Review surgical asepsis.

   *** d. Demonstrate admission procedure and assessment of a med/surg patient to the ward.
   e. Demonstrate:
      1) Monitoring intravenous infusions
      2) Calculating intravenous drip rates
      3) Regulating intravenous drip rates

*** Not required of the VN student.
VN student is not responsible for primary admission assessments.