John Collins Consulting Inc.
B320 - 1410 Parkway Blvd, Coquitlam, B.C. V3E 3J7 •
Ph: 604-554-0155
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COURSE OUTLINE – PHARMACOLOGY FOR RPNs (PHPN03)

Course Description

This course reviews the provincial and federal statutes which govern the classification and regulation of drugs. Putting this into a psychiatric nursing context, the basic foundations of pharmacology are reviewed, as well as the procedures and competencies for safe drug administration by RPNs. The course also provides a sound basis for comprehending the uses of various drug groups and, with a particular focus on the psychotropic drugs, discusses the nursing implications for various drug treatments. This includes legal and ethical considerations, as well as clinical issues which arise from the observation and reporting of drug effects, and the administration of drugs by RPNs.

Pre-requisites: Graduation from an entry-level psychiatric nursing program.

Co-requisites: None.

Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

- Accurately name the provincial and federal statutes for drug classification and regulation, and the obligations pertaining to these statutes which apply to RPNs.
- Provide accurate information about pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics as applied to commonly used drug groups.
- Accurately identify commonly used drugs from the major drug groups, with their intended effects, actual effects and the issues which arise with their uses.
- Explain the legal and ethical issues associated with psychopharmacology and drug administration.
- Describe the problems of psychotropic drug use, in general, and the resultant nursing responsibilities in their regard.
- Develop effective client-centred care plans for individuals receiving various drug treatments.
- Describe the procedures for safe drug administration.

Course Hours:

4 contact hours per week, for 9 weeks.

Modes of Instruction and Learning

This course is delivered through online modes of teaching and learning. This includes reading and literature search, short assignments, critiquing claims about drugs in the media and professional literature, and providing responses to various case scenarios. The course also includes tutorial and practical sessions with a psychiatric nursing consultant.

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Required Textbooks
Textbooks may be available online, in e-format or for purchase through publishers or other brokers. E.g. BookMob.ca often has nursing texts for sale at significantly reduced prices. You might also be able to borrow these texts from your local community college library – You are permitted to copy one chapter or 10% of a book for education purposes.

1. Austin, W., Kunyk, D., Peternelj-Taylor, C.A., and Boyd, M.A. 2019. 4th Edition. Psychiatric and Mental Health Nursing for Canadian Practice. Philadelphia: Wolters Kluwer/Lippincott Williams (The 3rd edition is available and suitable for this course, too)
2. Healy, D. (2016). Psychiatric drugs explained 6th Ed. Toronto: Churchill Livingstone (Elsevier)
3. Ralph, I. (2019). Psychotropic Agents 17th Edition Grand Forks: IGR Publications
4. Valenstein, E. (1998). Blaming the brain: the truth about drugs and mental health Michigan: Free Press

Assessment and Evaluation
Participants are required to successfully complete all learning activities in order to achieve an overall **Mastery grade** for the course. The specific criteria for success will vary with the type of learning activity and are indicated in each individual activity description (online). Generally, participants will be able to resubmit once when a learning activity is deemed by the Consultant as not meeting some or all of the competencies. The maximum number of resubmissions allowed is three and, even then, only at the instructor's discretion. This course should be completed within the maximum time frame of 9 weeks. Participants are required to achieve a '**Mastery**' grade in all assessable components of the course in order to receive the certificate of completion.

Attendance and Participation
The deadline for completing this course is 9 weeks from the date you first log onto the course-specific site. You are expected to be working on the course and assignments on a regular basis and to indicate to the Consultant how you are progressing or if you need assistance to progress. Failure to complete this course within the deadline or to maintain regular communication for a prolonged period (one month) could result in your being withdrawn from the online learning centre. A reinstatement fee of $100.00 may be payable should you wish to continue with the course after this time. If you repeat the same failure to maintain communication for a **second time**, you will be required to pay another reinstatement fee of $100.00. If you repeat the same failure to maintain communication for a **third time**, or if you are absent for a period of six months without communication (even if this is your first time failing to communicate regularly), you will have to pay the entire course and administration fees over again. Decisions in this regard are at the sole discretion of JCC Inc.

Assignments will be graded within a maximum of 14 days. We ask module participants to contact the office and provide a reminder if they have not heard from us by 10 days after submission of an assignment. Exceptions to these timeframes apply under unusual circumstances, such as when a participant registers for a module and then delays starting or begins the module and is then absent for an extended period of time. Additionally, participants are expected to complete and submit assignments progressively over the course of the module; it is not acceptable for a participant to suddenly submit multiple assignments over the course of one or two days. In any of these situations, the normal maximum of 14 days for return of assignments will be extended at the discretion of, and according to the needs of, the consultant. Moreover, in the event that a participant needs to be reinstated in a

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module (see Attendance and Participation subsection below), return of assignments may be further delayed by any work-related travel the consultant originally had planned in the new period.

Technical Issues (Reminder)

Technical problems can arise from a number of sources in online learning programs. Participants having technical difficulties should report them to JCC Inc. as soon as possible by e-mail, fax or phone. The news forums or e-mail will be used to notify participants of any known issues. Please read the news forum and check your e-mail frequently to keep aware of current conditions and issues. Participants will not be penalized for technical problems which arise from our LMS or the Server. Requests for assistance will be given priority responses.

Withdrawal & Refund Policy

In order to withdraw from continuing education at JCC Inc., all participants must provide written notice. The date upon which this written notice is received will be used to determine the amount of any potential refund based upon the following policy:

(a) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed within 6 calendar days since the participant received the introductory email[1], then JCC Inc. may retain 30% of the tuition.

(b) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed after 6 calendar days and within 19 calendar days since the participant received the introductory email[1], then JCC Inc. may retain 50% of the tuition.

(c) If written notice of withdrawal is received by JCC Inc. or a participant is dismissed at any point after 19 calendar days since the participant received the introductory email[1], then JCC Inc. may retain 100% of the tuition.

*N.B.: Notice must be received by e-mail to info@jcollinsconsulting.com by 4:00 p.m. (PST) on or before the days stated above.

[1] The introductory email provides the participant's username and password which grant access to the Online Learning Centre. The introductory email is considered to have been received by the participant when JCC Inc. sends it to the email address provided by the participant in the application form.

All program participants are required to read the "Site Policies" on the Online Learning Centre front page. The URL sent to you in the registration e-mail, with your username and password, will take you to this page. These documents have important policy information and assistance with assignments. You will be subject to the policies and expectations outlined in these documents, therefore, it is critical that you read them before starting your module/course.