



Registered Nurses  
Professional Development Centre

## **Medication Administration for Nurses**

### **Course Description**

Medication Administration for Nurses reviews the entry-level knowledge, skills, and judgments required by the registered nurse to safely administer medications to clients. This course addresses a variety of topics within the realm of medication administration which includes knowledge of the medication, appropriate administration routes, safe preparation, accurate mathematical calculations, potential adverse effects, clinical judgments, documentation, and other relevant communication.

If a learner has not completed the Pharmacology for Nurses course, it is assumed that a learner will have done a self-assessment and will have updated his/her knowledge of pharmacology.

### **Course Outcomes**

By the end of the course the learner will:

1. Demonstrate safety in the administration of medications within the expectations and responsibilities of Canadian nursing practice.
2. Identify appropriate nursing actions/clinical judgments related to safe medication administration.
3. Plan for, and administer medications to simulated clients in order to demonstrate the ability to set priorities, show effective time management, and make appropriate clinical judgments.

### **Format and Length of Course**

This course is delivered with a blended approach, online plus two full-day classroom sessions (and another hour session for practical exam). It takes 6 weeks to complete.

## Content

Units	Topics
1	<p><b>Legal/Professional guidelines for safe medication administration</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Role of health care team</li> <li>• Nursing process/health promotion and medication administration</li> <li>• Nursing considerations</li> <li>• Nursing resources for medication administration</li> <li>• “RIGHTS” of medication administration</li> <li>• Medication administration safety</li> <li>• Medication errors/high-alert medications</li> <li>• Organization and time management</li> </ul>
2	<p><b>Calculating Medication Dosages, Reading Labels and Documentation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conversions and calculations/systems of measurement</li> <li>• Abbreviations related to medication administration</li> <li>• Terminology for medication administration</li> <li>• Medication administration Record (MAR)</li> <li>• Physician’s orders and communication</li> <li>• Drug forms/reading labels</li> </ul>
3	<p><b>Administering Oral, Topical and Inhaled Medications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Administration routes (e.g., oral, subcutaneous, intramuscular and intravenous) and related nursing judgments</li> <li>• Demonstrates safe, competent administration of oral medications</li> <li>• Understands how to safely administer nasogastric, topical and inhaled medications</li> <li>• Assessment and evaluation</li> <li>• Documentation</li> </ul>
4	<p><b>Administering Parenteral Medications</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Needle safety (e.g., disposal, guards, adapters)</li> <li>• Preparation of medications from a vial and ampoule</li> <li>• Preparation of mixed insulin</li> <li>• Reconstitution of medication</li> <li>• Demonstrates safe, competent administration of IM, Sub Cut and IV medications</li> <li>• Understands how to safely administer medications via a subcutaneous butterfly</li> <li>• Assessment and evaluation</li> <li>• Documentation</li> </ul>