N348   Nursing Care of Childbearing Family
Credits:   5 (2 lecture, 3 clinical lab)
Semesters offered: F, S
Prerequisites: N354, N342, N377

Course Description: The focus of this course is the nursing care of childbearing women, neonates and their families in a variety of settings. Normal pregnancy and childbirth will be addressed, as well as the identification and management of high risk childbearing situations. Selected health care of women content is included.

Course Objectives: The student will:
1. Provide client-centered care to childbearing women, neonates and their families based on synthesis of theoretical and empirical knowledge from nursing, the sciences and the humanities.
2. Utilize evidence-based nursing practice to assist childbearing women, neonates and their families with health promotion, health maintenance, prevention of disease and illness and disease management.
3. Incorporate caring behaviors of altruism, autonomy, human dignity, integrity and social justice into nursing practice.
4. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability in childbearing nursing practice.
5. Demonstrate safe practices in providing nursing care to childbearing families.
6. Communicate effectively verbally and in writing with health care team, patients and families.

Recommended Content and Concepts:

A. Biophysical growth and development of the pregnant woman, fetus, and neonates e.g. to include genetics, embryology, hormonal cycle.
B. Psychosocial growth and development of the pregnant woman and neonates e.g. to include developmental tasks of pregnancy.
C. Nursing care of well-defined problems in antepartal, intrapartal, postpartal and newborn clients and families.
D. Health promotion and health maintenance care for women, neonates and their families e.g. to include anticipatory guidance and teaching related to preconceptual health, contraception, nutrition during pregnancy.
E. Community resources for referral and follow-up care for childbearing families. Impact of rurality.
F. Professional role and responsibility/confidentiality, communication, advocacy.
G. Attitude/role of the nurse in care of childbearing families e.g. to include essential values of professional nursing - American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN); influence of culture and social values.

H. Risk assessment of the childbearing families
1. Risk scales (formal/informal)
   a. physical
   b. biomedical
   c. psychosocial
   d. developmental
   e. family dynamics

I. Family focused nursing care for the woman and neonates with selected high risk or complex problems during the childbearing cycle.
1. Physiological deviations and nursing care in high risk clients
   For example:
   Maternal
   - infection
   - diabetes
   - preterm labor
   - pregnancy induced hypertension (PIH)
   - hematologic disorders e.g. placenta previa, abruptio placenta, postpartum hemorrhage, thromboembolic disease, hydatidiform mole
   - reproductive loss/failure
   - dystocia e.g. vaginal birth after Caesarean, Caesarean birth, induction, augmentation
   - postpartum depression/psychosis
   - adolescent pregnancy

   Newborn
   a. Respiratory Distress Syndrome (RDS)
   b. infections
   c. hematologic disorders
   d. newborn resuscitation

2. Nutrition
3. Pharmacology

J. Impact on families of a high risk pregnancy
   - Loss and grief
   - Cultural
   - Psycho/social/economic
   - Siblings
   - Growth and development

K. Application of family developmental theory to high risk childbearing families

L. Research - application of pertinent research findings
Examples of Learning Activities:

- Lecture
- Discussion
- Clinical conferences
- Guest speakers
- Family Care Study
- Nursing care for mothers, infants and/or families
- Nursing care plan for high risk mother, infant, or family
- Assessment of mother, newborn, or family
- Administer nursing care to clients or groups of clients experiencing physiologic deviations during antepartum, intrapartum, or postpartum
- Perform nutritional assessment
- Include appropriate pharmacological measures in nursing care
- Discharge plans with appropriate referrals

Suggested Clinical Placements:

Some examples - In patient: postpartum, labor and delivery, newborn nursery, newborn intensive care nursery. Out patient: prenatal doctor’s offices/clinics, certified nurse midwives, specialty practice offices, prenatal education, prenatal and postnatal home visits.

Approved by Faculty: August 2002
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