MONTANA STATE UNIVERSITY  
COLLEGE OF NURSING  
Master Resource Outline

**N358: Medical-Surgical Nursing I**  
Credits: 5; lecture 2, clinical lab 3  
Semesters offered: F, S  
Prerequisites: N340

**Course Description:** Medical-Surgical Nursing I provides students opportunities to care for adult clients with common Medical-Surgical problems. Relevant research findings and health needs of the rural client will be integrated.

**Course objectives:** The student will:

1. Utilize the nursing process in the delivery of nursing care to adult clients with selected ill-defined medical-surgical problems in structured situations.

2. Utilize the nursing process in the delivery of nursing care to adult clients with selected, well-defined medical-surgical problems in unstructured situations.

3. Utilize safe practices in providing nursing care to adult clients with medical-surgical problems.

4. Apply knowledge of underlying mechanisms of alterations in physiologic function in providing nursing care to adult clients.

5. Develop management skills in providing care to an adult medical-surgical client.

6. Demonstrate skill in functioning as a responsible member of a medical-surgical health care team.

7. Demonstrate responsibility and accountability for own behavior in the provision of care to adult medical-surgical clients.

8. Explore the role of the professional nurse when providing care to selected adult medical-surgical clients.

Approved by Faculty: 11/4/89

Updated by UAAC: 2/28/97
Recommended Content and Concepts:

A. Respiration
   Ineffective airway clearance
   Impaired gas exchange
   Ineffective breathing pattern
   --Lung cancer
   --Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
   --Pneumonia
   --Post-op atelectasis
   Skills: Independent nursing respiratory interventions, oxygen therapy, suctioning, airway management

B. Circulation
   Decreased Cardiac Output
   Altered Tissue Perfusion
   --Congestive Heart Failure
   --Angina
   --Peripheral Vascular Disease
   --Thrombophlebitis
   --Hypertension

C. Activity/Exercise
   Activity Intolerance
   Fatigue
   --Anemias
   --Leukemia
   Impaired Physical Mobility
   Alteration in Comfort: Chronic Pain
   --Musculoskeletal
   1. Trauma: bone fractures and healing
      --hip fracture and pinning
   2. Inflammatory: rheumatoid arthritis
   3. Degenerative: Osteoarthritis
      Herniated disc and laminectomy
      Joint replacements
   --Neurologic
   --Multiple sclerosis
   --Parkinsons
   Skills: Traction, cast care, crutch walking
D. Nutritional/Metabolic/Endocrine
   Alteration in Regulation/Alteration in Nutrition
   --Reproduction disorders, i.e. infection, structural abnormalities and neoplasms.
   --Thyroid, parathyroid, and adrenal disorders
   --Diabetes mellitus
   --Cholecystitis
   --Ulcers
   --Obesity
   Skills: Glucose monitoring, nasogastric intubation and enteral feedings, central line and hyperalimentation

E. Elimination
   Constipation
   Diarrhea
   Incontinence
   Retention
   --Cancer of the colon
   --Inflammatory bowel disease
   --Urinary infections
   --Urolithiasis
   --Prostate enlargement and surgery
   Skills: Ostomy care, enemas, urinary catheters

F. Neurosensory
   Unilateral Neglect
   Altered Thought Processes
   Sensory-Perceptual Alteration
   Impaired Verbal Communication
   Impaired swallowing
   --Cataracts
   --Glaucoma
   --Hearing loss
   --Cerebral vascular accident

G. Safety/Stress/Adaptation
   Cancer and cancer therapy
   Peri-operative stress
   Impaired Skin Integrity
   --Decubitus ulcers
   Impaired Tissue Integrity
   --Altered Oral Mucous Membranes
   Potential for Infection
   Potential for bleeding
   Skills: peri-operative care

H. Prioritization, time management, organizational skills

I. Discharge planning, rehabilitation, and home health needs

J. Teaching/learning needs of above patients

K. Interdisciplinary approach to patient care, role of student in the health care team
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L. Documentation of patient care, oral reports

M. Professional behavior in relation to patient in acute care settings: confidentiality, role expectations, safety concerns

N. Integration of pharmacological concepts

Examples of Learning Activities:

Lecture
Discussion
Audiovisuals
Assigned readings
Computer Assisted Instruction (CAI)
Preparation for and provision of direct patient care to select medical-surgical clients (including review of patient chart, physical and psychosocial assessment, development/implementation/ and evaluation of nursing care plans, review of medical therapies and drugs administered)
Pathophysiology cards
Drug cards
Analysis of Laboratory data
Performance of psychomotor skills in lab and clinical setting
Oral communication with members of health care team
Written documentation
Clinical conferences
Observation experiences: Gastro-intestinal lab, Cardiac catheterization lab, Operating room, Recovery room
Written self evaluation and weekly logs
Case studies
Guest speakers
Student/instructor conferences
Written examinations
Drug profile completion on elder client

Scope Statement: The focus of this course includes primary, secondary and tertiary prevention of illness.