Montana State University-Bozeman
College of Nursing
Master Resource Outline

N520 Pharmacotherapeutics for Older Adults
Semester Offered: Fall
Credits: 1 lecture
Prerequisites: N517 or consent of instructor
Co-requisites: N563, N581 or consent of instructor

Course Description: Addresses pharmacological interventions in managing common health care problems of elders and their families. Students will apply knowledge of pharmacological management of commonly encountered health problems of the aging population. Regulatory issues regarding prescriptive practice for APRNs are addressed.

Course Objectives:

1. Discuss pharmacokinetic and physiological factors that alter/predict drug actions in elders.

2. Demonstrate skills consistent with advanced practice roles when managing common health problems of elders.

3. Analyze the implications of polypharmacy in the elderly population.

4. Discuss commonly encountered adverse drug reactions and their appropriate management for elders.

5. Discuss potential interactions of prescribed medications with complementary alternative medicine (CAM) and over-the-counter (OTC) drugs used by elders.

6. Apply principles of client education regarding pharmacotherapy for elders and their families.

7. Apply legal and ethical principles inherent in pharmacological interventions with elders.

8. Understand state regulations related to prescriptive practice.

Suggested Content:

Geriatrics—pharmacodynamics, poly-pharmacology, dietary supplements and remedies
Anemia
Dementia, Delirium, Sleep Disorders
Osteo/Rheumatoid Arthritis Osteoporosis (OTC, CAM, & Rx)
Drugs that enhance sexual function
Psychotropic Drug Therapy (OTC, CAM)
Upper/Lower Respiratory Tract
Infections, COPD
Heart failure
Constipation, Incontinence, UTI
Stroke/Seizures
Prescriptive Authority Process
QA and Referral Process
DEA Process & Application

Approved by GAAC: April, 2003
Approved by Faculty: April, 2003