

**J. Sargeant Reynolds Community College**  
**Course Content Summary**

**Course Prefix and Number:** PNE 173

**Credits:** 1

**Course Title:** Pharmacology for Practical Nurses

**Course Description:** Studies history, classification, sources, effects, uses, and legalities of drugs. Teaches problem-solving skills used in medication administrations. Emphasizes major drug classes and specific agents within each class. Prerequisites: Successful completion of Level 1 courses (PNE 161, PNE 116, BIO 142, ENG 111) with a grade of C or above in each identified course. Co-requisite: PNE 162. Lecture 2 hours per week.

**General Course Purpose:** To introduce the student to the pharmacological aspects of medications, including generic and trade names, drug action, uses, side/adverse effects, and nursing implications.

**Course Prerequisites and Co-requisites:**

**Prerequisites:** Successful completion of Level 1 courses (PNE 161, PNE 116, BIO 142, ENG 111) with a grade of C or above in each identified course

**Co-requisite:** PNE 162

**Course Objectives:**

Upon completing the course, the student will be able to:

- a. Discuss basic pharmacologic and pharmacotherapeutic factors affecting practical nursing within the context of ethical and legal practice standards.
- b. Apply basic skills of therapeutic communication in the administration of medications, noting and documenting the interactions via appropriate methods.
- c. Apply basic values and principles from the natural and social sciences, humanities, and nursing theory to facilitate the data collection of basic human needs relating to pharmacologic needs and the delivery of care to hospitalized adult patients requiring medication administration and nursing interventions to maintain or promote optimum health.
- d. Demonstrate basic knowledge and skills in obtaining patient information, clinical decision-making, and documentation relating to the preparation and administration of medications.
- e. Provide safe, accurate care based on the recognition of the ethical influences on individuals and families in the hospital setting.
- f. Demonstrate nursing skills in promoting self-care activities for the adult medical-surgical client by providing information and assessing comprehension and retention of the information provided relating to pharmacology and pharmacotherapeutics.
- g. Establish, maintain, and promote effective interpersonal relationships with members of the health care team, clients, and their support persons regarding pharmacotherapeutics.
- h. Demonstrate basic knowledge and skills using appropriate equipment efficiently and effectively to provide medication administration and related nursing interventions.

**Major Topics to Be Included:**

- a. Basic math skills as related to medication administration
- b. Pharmacology and the nursing process
- c. Medications used in managing the surgical patient
- d. Medications and the elderly client
- e. Medications used in selected eye disorders

**Effective Date of Course Content Summary:** Fall, 2014