NorthWest Arkansas Community College
Division of Health Professions

Course Number and Title

AHSC 1116: Medication Assistant - Certified

Catalog Description

The Medication Assistant – Certified Program (MA-C) provides the certified nursing assistant an opportunity to expand their vital role in caring for patients in long-term care facilities. The MA-C Program includes the development of knowledge related to many commonly prescribed medications, medication classification, side effects, and administration techniques. The 115 contact hours include theory, lab, and clinical experience in medication administration and related tasks. The MA-C performs these duties under the supervision of a licensed nurse within the training program and in their respective employment facilities.

Prerequisites

Appropriate Compass reading test score (>81), current Arkansas CNA Certification, and employment as a CNA in a long-term facility for no less than one year is required for admission.

Credit hours/Contact hours/Load hours

6/115/6

Target Audience/Transferability

Current Certified Nursing Assistants, employed in long-term care, that desire to expand their healthcare career by obtaining certification as a medication assistant is the target audience.

Student Learning Outcomes

1. Determine the role and scope of practice for the MA-C.
2. Demonstrate and correctly identify the “six rights” of medication administration.
3. Identify various types of medications including classifications, uses, properties, and therapeutic actions.
4. Demonstrate the principles of medication administration including reading medication orders, communication, and documentation skills in the long-term setting.
5. Demonstrate understanding of medication interactions and necessary precautions.
6. Identify common abbreviations used in medication administration.
7. Demonstrate knowledge of infection control and standard precautions concerning medication administration.

8. Recognize adverse reactions of medications and intervene appropriately incorporating principles of client safety.
9. Recognize reporting requirements to include changes in client conditions.
10. Employ knowledge of legal restrictions and ethical principles of administering medications as they relate to the MA-C.
11. Verbalize understanding of patient's rights regarding the refusal of medications.
12. Practice in an entry - level position as a Medication Assistant- Certified in a Long-term care setting.

Topics

1. Role and scope of practice of the MA-C.
2. Regulatory and Legal/Ethical Issues.
3. Basic Pharmacology.
4. Medication Basics.
5. Medication Administration
6. Medication Error – prevention, causes, and reporting.
7. Communication and Documentation.
8. Supervised Clinical Practicum.

Forms of Assessment

1) Observation with instructor evaluation in lab setting
2) Observation with instructor evaluation in clinical setting
3) Unit exams
4) Comprehensive final exam