



**MASSEY UNIVERSITY**  
COLLEGE OF HEALTH  
TE KURA HAUORA TANGATA

## **168.342: Praxis IV**

### **Information for clinical agencies and their staff**

Having gained prior nursing experiences in clinical settings, focused on long-term physical and mental health conditions, as well as primary health care during the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of their BN programme, students are now ready and much more prepared to deal with acute and often unpredictable health conditions.

Course 168.342 is a clinically-focused course which is linked to the theory course 168.341: Nursing in Acute Illness and Trauma. Both courses prepare students to work with clients experiencing acute physical or mental illness, to monitor for potential complications, and to assist in the management of trauma. To gain the required clinical experience, 3<sup>rd</sup>-year students go into a wide variety of acute care areas including medical and surgical wards, ICU, ED, OT, NICU, paediatrics and acute mental health areas both, in community and institutional settings. The ultimate goal of the clinical experience is for students to develop and further refine the required nursing skills that are considered essential within the acute care setting. The ability to perform a systematic comprehensive patient assessment which will service as a foundation for sound clinical decision-making is a vital part of the learning experience.

The teaching/learning strategy utilised in this course includes lectures, discussions, videos, CD-ROM, directed and self-directed learning activities, demonstrations and guided hands-on practise in a simulation laboratory, as well as the actual clinical practice in acute health care settings.

### **Learning Outcomes:**

On completion of this course the student will be able to:

- Demonstrate nursing strategies and skills in working with people experiencing physical/mental, trauma and acute illness within a variety of health care settings;
- Selectively use research and theoretical knowledge in exploring practice issues;
- Establish and maintain effective nursing partnerships with individuals and families to promote healthy lifestyles;
- Demonstrate effective time management through the ability to prioritize and manage care;
- Demonstrate effective communication and documentation skills working in a multi-disciplinary team;
- Practice within legal and ethical standards of the Nursing Council of New Zealand;
- Demonstrate nursing practice that the client determines is culturally safe;

The focus of simulated practise suite sessions include but are not limited to the following topics:

### **Physical Health**

- Triage
- Airway management, Intubation, Suctioning
- ACLS/Issues of sub optimal care
- Cardiac Rhythms
- CPR adult, child and baby
- Emergency medications
- Neurological assessment/GCS
- Pre and Post Operative Care
- Care of Intercostal Chest Drains
- Acute wound care
- IV therapy/drug and fluid calculations
- Spinal care

### **Mental Health:**

- Advancing assessment
- Assessment of different groups of people. i.e. older adults and young people
- Alcohol and drug use
- Assessment of suicidal intention
- Therapeutic relationship skills
- Hearing Voices workshop

### **Clinical Experience**

The purpose of clinical experience is to provide students with an opportunity to utilise theoretical knowledge and clinical skills in the real context of nursing practice. Students gain a total of 320 hours clinical experience spread out over three 3-week blocks (total of 9 weeks clinical experience). Students will be allocated one 3-week block in acute mental health and two 3-week blocks will provide experience in the acute physical health setting.

There is an expectation that students are given increasing levels of responsibilities. After orientation on the first day, and closely working together over the next few days, preceptors will be able to assess the student's knowledge and skill level in preparation for delegating increasingly complex nursing interventions. It is envisaged that by the end of the first week students accept responsibility for the care of 1 or more patients, and this number will increase over the following 2 weeks depending on the student's progress to manage a heavier workload and the level of competence demonstrated.

As learning remains the focus of clinical experience, preceptors are encouraged to arrange opportunities for students to spend time with and/or observe visiting clinical nurse specialists in cardiac rehabilitation, diabetes, stroke, urology, pain, wound care etcetera. Likewise, working in a multidisciplinary team will present opportunities for students to observe and learn from physiotherapists, speech/language therapists, dieticians, and medical staff. The School encourages agencies to allow students to

engage in the 'follow through' of their allocated patients i.e. accompany their patient to radiology, endoscopy, or operating theatre to gain a better understanding of how the hospital system works and what the patient experiences as they undergo the tests/treatments.

Nurses seldom work in isolation and hence, developing and practising skills required to be an effective team member are a crucial component of the clinical experience. Students need to feel part of the practice team and it is of utmost important that the clinical area has protocols in place which ensure that students are fully involved with the day-to-day running of the clinical area. Students should be invited to staff meetings and staff education sessions. Students also need to be involved in patient admissions, family meetings, the decision-making process re patient care options, and discharge planning.

**If you have more question or you like additional information please contact your local CTA or contact Massey University.**

**Other course related to this current course: [168.243](#)**