Module Specification

Principles of Critical Care

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Part 1: Information

Module title: Principles of Critical Care

Module code: UZWR1B-20-3

Level: Level 6

For implementation from: 2026-27

UWE credit rating: 20

ECTS credit rating: 10

College: College of Health, Science & Society

School: CHSS School of Health and Social Wellbeing

Partner institutions: None

Field: Acute and Critical Care Adult Nursing

Module type: Module

Pre-requisites: None

Excluded combinations: None

Co-requisites: None

Continuing professional development: Yes

Professional, statutory or regulatory body requirements: None

Part 2: Description

Overview: A short professional CPD module covering key aspects of Intensive and Critical Care to expand students' knowledge of relevant anatomy, physiology, and management of critically ill adults, as well as current issues within the critical care arena.

Features: Module Entry Requirements: Registered health care practitioner. Working in a critical care facility (level 2 or 3 critical care dependency).

Educational aims: This module will provide students with the opportunity to enhance their knowledge around key management of organ and systems failure of the body linked to critical care. Additionally, key knowledge around pharmacology, wider aspects of critical care, and infection control will be focussed on.

Outline syllabus: The syllabus will typically include:
Assessment, management and delivery of care for the following critical care patients (dependency level 2 or 3):
Patients with respiratory dysfunction
Patients with cardiovascular dysfunction
Patients with gastro-intestinal dysfunction
Patients at risk of or in Systemic inflammatory response syndrome / Multiple organ dysfunction syndrome
Patients with neurological dysfunction
Patients with renal /fluid balance dysfunction
Patients with endocrine dysfunction

Evidence based practice:
Tools for searching and selecting evidence from a range of sources.

Organisational / political influences on care:
Current initiatives which impact on practice
Ethical frameworks within critical care
Organisational changes and new ways of working.

Part 3: Teaching and learning methods

Teaching and learning methods: Contact hours: A total of 48 hours in the form of online seminars, lectures, online activities and guided learning.

A variety of approaches will be used which will include:
Technology enhanced learning
Workshops and Masterclasses

Lectures and Seminars
Enquiry based learning
Case based learning

This module is delivered using a completely online approach. 5 days are scheduled where lecturers facilitate live education online. This is supported by guided learning, utilising supplied online material.

Module Learning outcomes: On successful completion of this module students will achieve the following learning outcomes.

MO1 Critically appraise knowledge and understanding of physiological and pathological processes within critical illness and be able to relate to evidence based management and care.

MO2 Demonstrate a comprehensive knowledge and understanding of key management and therapy for critically ill patients, and apply to the needs of level 2 or 3 critical care patients.

MO3 Analyse and evaluate the effects of local and national, political, legal and economic decisions on critical care practice.

Hours to be allocated: 200

Contact hours:

Independent study/self-guided study = 152 hours

E-learning/online learning = 48 hours

Reading list: The reading list for this module can be accessed at readinglists.uwe.ac.uk via the following link https://uwe.rl.talis.com/index.html

Part 4: Assessment

Assessment strategy: This module has one assessment:

Summative Assessment:
Online 2 hour timed exam.

A timed examination accurately reflects the real-world demands placed on critical care practitioners, particularly the need to synthesise knowledge and make informed clinical decisions within constrained timeframes. Such skills are essential in high-acuity environments, where rapid interpretation and application of clinical data is critical for patient safety and outcomes.

Formative Assessment
Students will be given opportunities to test their knowledge and understanding in several interactive quizzes and activities, with feedback throughout the module.

Assessment tasks:

Examination (Online) (First Sit)
Description: Examination (Online) 2 hours
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Examination (Online) (Resit)
Description: Examination (Online) 2 hours
Weighting: 100 %
Final assessment: Yes
Group work: No
Learning outcomes tested: MO1, MO2, MO3

Part 5: Contributes towards

This module contributes towards the following programmes of study: