



FACULTY OF HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF NURSING, MIDWIFERY AND HEALTH

HLTH 526: Patient Safety and Risk Reduction

30 POINTS
TRIMESTER 2 2016

Key dates

Trimester dates: 11 July to 13 November 2016

Teaching dates: 11 July to 16 October 2016

Mid-trimester break: 22 August to 4 September 2016

Last assessment item due: 14 October 2016

Withdrawal dates: Refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/withdrawals-refunds.

If you cannot complete an assignment or sit a test in the last three weeks of teaching, or an examination, it may instead be possible to apply for an aegrotat (refer to www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/aegrotats).

SECTION 1: OPERATIONAL INFORMATION

Class times and locations

1st School

Dates: Monday 25 and Tuesday 26 July 2016

Times: 0900 – 1700 daily

Venue: CS802, Level 8, Clinical Services Building, Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

2nd School

Dates: Thursday 15 and Friday 16 September 2016

Times: 0900 – 1700 daily

Venue: CS801, Level 8, Clinical Services Building, Wellington Regional Hospital, Riddiford St, Newtown, Wellington

Important Notice

The Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health at Victoria University of Wellington, uses all reasonable skill and care in an effort to ensure the information and course content information contained in this outline is accurate at the time of going to print.

Students should be aware, however, that in the event course timetables and venues need to be changed, all attempts will be made to notify the students.

Names and contact details

Course Coordinator

Dr Brian Robinson

Ph: 04 463 6155

Email: brian.robinson@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Tuesdays 1.00 – 4.00pm or by appointment

Administrator

Ph: 04 463 5363

Email: nmh@vuw.ac.nz

Office hours: Monday to Friday 9.00am – 4.00pm

Office Hours

The Graduate School office will be open 09.00 – 4.00pm weekdays from Tuesday 5 January 2016 and close on Thursday 22 December 2016.

Please contact the course coordinator directly either by telephone or email should you wish to make an appointment or discuss course related issues.

Postal Address

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery & Health

Victoria University of Wellington

P O Box 7625

Newtown

Wellington 6242

Physical Address

Level 7, Clinical Services Block (CSB)
Wellington Regional Hospital
Riddiford St, Newtown
Wellington 6021

Communication of additional information

All course information and information on changes that occur during the course will be conveyed to students via Blackboard or student email.

SECTION 2: COURSE INFORMATION

Prescription

This course is designed to develop knowledge related to patient safety within the international health care arena. Research related to adverse events and strategies to improve patient safety and reduce risk provide the key content.

Course content

Students will be encouraged to articulate in discussions their experiences and understanding of adverse events across healthcare settings. This will include:

- Patient safety
- Clinical risk

Topics covered within the course will focus on developing knowledge and understanding within the following areas:

- Human factors and human error
- Human factors in healthcare
- High risk organisations and high reliability organisations
- Healthcare systems as complex organisations
- The cost of adverse events in healthcare
- Analysis and learning from errors and systems failures
- Multidisciplinary teams and inter-professional communication
- Communication with patients and their families
- Open communication / open disclosure
- Managing and mitigating clinical risk; improving the safety of patient care

Course learning objectives (CLOs)

Students who pass this course will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge and comprehension of national and international concerns with regard to patient safety
2. Articulate the causes and mechanisms of adverse outcomes in healthcare
3. Identify the principles of clinical risk and patient safety
4. Demonstrate an understanding of the skills, tools and techniques for identifying, managing and minimising adverse clinical events and outcomes
5. Communicate objectively and effectively on issues related to patient safety and clinical risk

Teaching format

There will be 4 School days held in Wellington which will be delivered in two blocks of 2 days each over the one trimester. The days will be a mix of lectures, tutorials and small group activities. A distance component supported by Blackboard forms part of the course and supports the development of the content delivered in the school.

Mandatory course requirements

In addition to achieving an overall pass mark of 50%, students must:

1. Attend all Schools unless under special circumstances prior arrangements have been made with the course coordinator. Guest presenters with specialist knowledge and experience from key patient safety organisations present and also participate in dialogue with students. This enables students to discuss and develop critical awareness of current issues affecting patient safety informing assignment preparation.

Any student who is concerned that they have been (or might be) unable to meet any of the MCRs because of exceptional personal circumstances, should contact the course coordinator as soon as possible.

Workload

As a guide each 30-point course at the Graduate School requires students to allocate approximately 10 hours per point for self-directed study, research, assessments and attendance at Schools. Consequently, 300 hours should be spread evenly over the full year.

This course comprises approximately 32 hours of course contact time for lectures and tutorials.

The amount of time you should notionally assign to the completion for each of the assignments is:

1. Assignment one: Patient safety and risk review (45%): 120 hours
2. Assignment two: Proposal for a patient safety or risk reduction strategy (55%): 145 hours

SECTION 3: ASSESSMENT INFORMATION

Assessment

Assessment items and workload per item	%	CLO(s)	Due date
1 Written assignment: Patient safety and risk review (3500 words)	45%	1, 2, 3, 5	22 August 2016
2 Written assignment: Proposal for a patient safety or risk reduction strategy (4500 words)	55%	2, 3, 4	14 October 2016

Marking criteria for each assessment will be made available on Blackboard.

Assignment one

Assignment: Medical error as a leading cause of death

Due Date: Monday 22 August 2016 (5pm)

Word count: 3500 words

This assignment is worth 45% of your final grade

This assignment focuses on medical error as a significant cause of death. In May 2016 Martin Makary and Michael Daniel published an analysis using estimates of deaths due medical error. They indicated that if medical error is considered a disease it would be the third leading cause of heaths in US hospitals and ranks between cancer and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). The authors identified that as death certificates in the US have no facility to acknowledge medical error, there is no system to compile statistics of these deaths. They argue that the inability to measure these outcomes impacts on scientific approaches to implement and assess patient safety strategies.

The paper can be located at this link: <http://www.bmj.com/content/353/bmj.i2139>.

In this assignment, critically discuss the proposal by these authors. In your discussion you should identify any benefits or risks of a recording deaths due to preventable serious and sentinel events on death certificates in New Zealand.

This assignment assesses the course learning objectives: 1, 2, 3, & 5.

Please submit this assignment electronically via Turnitin/Blackboard.

Assignment two

Assignment: Proposal for a patient safety or risk reduction strategy

Due Date: Friday 14 October 2016 (5pm)

Word Count: 4500 words

This assignment is worth 55% of your final grade

This assignment focuses on a strategy formulated on the identification and management of an actual, potential or perceived patient safety or clinical risk issue from a clinical area.

Students are to identify and describe a threat to patient safety and clinical risk within a clinical area (e.g. hand washing, patient observations, staff shortages, equipment issues, communication).

Students should describe a mitigation plan that has been designed and applied. The strategy should include an introduction to the perceived patient safety issues and clinical risks, a review of other strategies considered and the potential clinical risks and outcomes. The clinical context should be explained and supporting data provided. A review of the pertinent literature in terms of all relevant and perceived issues should be provided. It is also important to consider confidentiality issues of the patients, families, health professionals and organisations involved.

A detailed strategy which incorporates a range of possible solutions to the problem should be described. The student should then describe the outcome(s) of the strategy and the method(s) used to evaluate outcome(s) and identify any on-going issues. This should include realistic recommendations and how strategies may be implemented by other organisations.

This assignment assesses the course learning objectives: 2, 3, & 4.

Please submit this assignment electronically via Turnitin/Blackboard.

Submission and return of work

For submission details, please see individual assessment items. Student coursework assignments normally will not be returned. Feedback will be provided (via Blackboard) within three weeks of the due date.

Extensions

An extension to a deadline will only be considered where there are extenuating circumstances. An application for an extension must be made by you in writing/e-mail to the course coordinator at least 24 hours before the due date. When communicating your request you must include the following information:

- name, student number and contact details
- course code
- date of submission and request date for new submission
- reason for extension request.

Upon receipt of your request, course coordinators may grant an extension of up to 2 weeks. Any further request for an extension may require Head of School approval.

Penalties

Late assignments or assignments with extensions may be subject to delays in marking and may not receive comprehensive feedback.

A penalty will be incurred for late submission of work **where no prior arrangement** has been made as follows:

- Work submitted up to 7 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 2 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a B-.
- Work submitted 8-14 days after the due date without an extension will receive a 4 grade penalty. For example a B+ to a C.
- Work submitted more than 15 days late without an extension will not be marked and will receive an 'E' (fail) grade.

Other marking penalties

Assignments may also be penalised for poor presentation and for exceeding or being below the word limit by 10%.

SECTION 4: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Set texts

There is no set text for this course.

Recommended reading

Kohn, L.T., Corrigan, J. M. & Donaldson, M. S. (1999). *To err is human: Building a safer health system*. Washington: National Academy Press

This can be accessed free of charge from the following website:

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=9728

Flin, R., O'Connor, P., & Crichton, M. (2008). *Safety at the sharp end: a guide to non-technical skills*. Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Ltd.

Vincent, C. (2010). *Patient safety* (2nd ed.) Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell

Vincent, C., & Amalberti, R. (2016). *Safer healthcare. Strategies for the real world*. Heidelberg: Springer Open

This can be accessed free of charge from the following website:

<http://www.springer.com/it/book/9783319255576>

Recommended websites

<http://www.hqsc.govt.nz/>

<http://www.who.int/patientsafety/en/>

<http://webmm.ahrq.gov/>

<http://www.npsf.org/>

<http://www.npsa.nhs.uk/>

<http://www.ahrq.gov/qual/errorsix.htm>

<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/medlineplus/patientsafety.html>

<http://www.apsf.net.au/>

<http://www.patientsafetyinstitute.ca/English/Pages/default.aspx>

<http://www.midstaffspublicinquiry.com/report>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/berwick-review-into-patient-safety>

Student feedback

The previous cohort of students provided feedback valuing the involvement of guest speakers with expertise in human factors, aviation safety, patient safety and risk reduction. The course assessment has changed to align with the School assessment strategy. As a result, an online blog has been removed as this was least valued by student recommendations.

Student feedback on University courses may be found at

www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/feedback/feedback_display.php.

Ethics conduct

Students are expected to adhere to ethical principles in all aspects of their coursework. This applies to academic integrity and also to the way information about, or from, individuals in the practice setting is managed. Good ethical practice must be maintained in all learning activities. The Human Ethics Committee at Victoria University of Wellington has granted approval for the incorporation of data or observations from patient/client/individuals into coursework from the

Graduate School of Nursing, Midwifery and Health, and expects adherence to the instructions below.

Students are expected to adhere to their professional codes of conduct and standards, relevant legislative frameworks and contractual obligations to any employing organisation at all times. In addition, all students in classes where assignments might include observations, reports, images, photographs or descriptions of individuals (patients or colleagues) with whom they have worked in a clinical or practice setting as part of an assignment, must:

1. Read and sign the "Information for using individual data in an assignment: Student agreement statement"
2. Determine whether verbal or written informed consent is required, according to the guidelines provided in the student agreement statement and in consultation with their course coordinator if they are unsure;
3. Provide the patient/client/individual, or the parent/guardian of the child, whose data they intend to use with full information about how they intend to obtain and use the data;
4. Provide written information and obtain written informed consent if required.

Should students have any concerns about ethical aspects of their course requirements they should discuss them with the course coordinator.

Your Course Coordinator will discuss the ethical implications and special requirements (if any) for this particular course.

Other important information

The information above is specific to this course. There is other important information that students must familiarise themselves with, including:

- Academic Integrity and Plagiarism: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/exams/integrity-plagiarism
- Academic Progress: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/academic-progress (including restrictions and non-engagement)
- Dates and deadlines: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/dates
- FHSS Student and Academic Services Office: www.victoria.ac.nz/fhss/student-admin
- Grades: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/study/progress/grades
- Special passes: refer to the *Assessment Handbook*, at www.victoria.ac.nz/documents/policy/staff-policy/assessment-handbook.pdf
- Statutes and policies including the Student Conduct Statute: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/strategy
- Student support: www.victoria.ac.nz/students/support
- Students with disabilities: www.victoria.ac.nz/st_services/disability
- Student Charter: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/student-charter
- Subject Librarians: <http://library.victoria.ac.nz/library-v2/find-your-subject-librarian>
- Terms and conditions: www.victoria.ac.nz/study/apply-enrol/terms-conditions/student-contract
- Turnitin: www.cad.vuw.ac.nz/wiki/index.php/Turnitin
- University structure: www.victoria.ac.nz/about/governance/structure
- Victoria graduate profile: www.victoria.ac.nz/learning-teaching/learning-partnerships/graduate-profile
- VUWSA: www.vuwsa.org.nz

Blackboard Information

Students enrolling for this course will need regular internet access to engage with the online Victoria learning platform (Blackboard).

Blackboard is an online environment that supports teaching and learning at Victoria by making course information, materials and learning activities available online. Blackboard provides web-based access to course content, assessment, communication and collaboration tools.

How to log onto Blackboard

- Open a web browser and go to <https://my.vuw.ac.nz/>
- Enter your student username which you will find in your *Confirmation of Study* sent via email. It is usually made up of 6 letters of your last name and 4 letters of your first name e.g. Bart Simpson's username would be 'simsobart'
- Enter your password. If you have never logged in before your initial password should be 'Vuw' followed by a hyphen and your student ID number e.g. Vuw-123456789
- Click on the Blackboard icon
- Alternatively, if you want to access Blackboard without going through the myVictoria portal, just log on at <http://blackboard.vuw.ac.nz>

Off Campus access

Blackboard is available from any location where you can access the Internet. This may be your home, work or an internet café.

Problems with access? Contact ITS service desk **04 463 5050**