

# Rural and Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 - Registered Nurse Course

## Program aim

The **Rural and Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 Registered Nurse Course** will prepare Registered Nurses (RN) to apply for endorsement by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to practice as scheduled medicines RNs (rural and isolated practice) under the provisions of the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 in Queensland.

The scheduled medicines RN (rural and isolated practice) endorsement qualifies the RN to 'obtain, supply and administer schedule 2, 3, 4 and 8 medicines for nursing practice in a rural and isolated practice area' (Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, 2010).

## Accreditation

The course is accredited by the Australian Nursing and Midwifery Council.

## Course length

300 hours over a nine month period.

It is anticipated that the average student will take 20 – 36 weeks of approximately 10 – 15 hours of study / activities per week to complete the course.

## Course objectives

- Fulfil the role of a registered nurse authorised to practice under the Drug Therapy Protocol (DTP) Isolated Practice Areas and Rural Hospitals RNs.
- Maintain contemporary knowledge and skills pertaining to the administration and supply of drug therapy as per the DTP Isolated Practice Areas and Rural Hospitals RNs.
- Use multiple approaches to enhance assessment and decision making appropriate to practice context.
- Manage care of individuals and groups through implementation of Health Management Protocols (HMP).
- Engage in collaborative practice to achieve optimal, culturally relevant client outcomes.
- Provide culturally appropriate information to clients and carers about drug actions and interactions relevant to the DTP.

## Learning and assessment

The course is made up of 4 modules

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| • Module 1: Context of practice / legislative requirements     | 10% |
| • Module 2: Pharmacokinetics / pharmacodynamics                | 30% |
| • Module 3: Assessment and practice                            | 50% |
| • Module 4: Client education, communication, and collaboration | 10% |

## Delivery method

The course will be offered by flexible delivery. Delivery may include workshops and the following distance education strategies: workbooks, hard copy resources, computer assisted learning (telephone conferencing, interactive CD ROM, Read-only PowerPoint and PowerPoint presentation for local facilitation) and case study presentations.



### **Admission requirements**

- current licence to practice as an RN in Australia
- concurrent employment in a Queensland rural hospital or isolated practice setting as defined by the Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation, 1996
- consideration will be given to RNs working in urban settings within Queensland Health, however written confirmation of rural or isolated practice clinical placement for a minimum of eight weeks must be provided on application. The amount of time and timing of clinical placement is to be negotiated with the course coordinator.

### **Co requisites**

Prior to or during the course students are required to achieve certification of competency in the Core Clinical Skills. Core Clinical Skills are to be assessed using the Clinical Skills Assessment Tools.

Students are required to assess their individual learning requirements in relation to the Core Clinical Skills and may wish / be required to undertake further courses of study as necessary.

A copy of the *Students Guide and Record of Clinical Skills Assessments for Rural and Isolated Practice Registered Nurses* detailing Core Clinical Skills and Assessment Tools is available on request.

### **Enrolment**

Complete an expression of interest form for the Rural and Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 RN course. Include with your expression of interest

- a letter outlining why you want to do the course
- your curriculum vitae
- a copy of your current license to practice as an RN in Australia.

Once the closing date for expression of interest has passed, a selection process will take place and you will be notified of your acceptance into the course.

*\*\* Do not send any money with your expression of interest.*

### **Credit transfer / Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

Credit is offered through numerous tertiary institutions / universities and it is recommended that students apply directly to the appropriate faculty if requesting recognised prior learning (RPL).

Example as advised by James Cook University:

The Rural and Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 RN course is eligible for advance standing towards Post Graduate Diploma and Masters Courses at JCU (equivalent to two subjects). For example, credit will be given for two 3 – credit point elective subjects for students enrolling in the Nurse Practitioner program. James Cook University offer a Post Graduate Diploma in Nursing (Isolated and Rural Practice), which requires students to have completed the Rural and Isolated Practice Health (Drugs and Poisons) Regulation 1996 RN program (equal to 6 credit points).

### **Recognition of Prior Learning**

The Cunningham Centre encourages participants to apply for RPL of their existing skills and knowledge in this course. To assist participants a RPL Package has been prepared. Discuss your interest in applying for RPL with the course coordinator.

## Fees and charges

\$ 1000.00

## Client services

A range of client support services, including personal and career counseling is available upon request to assist participants in meeting the outcomes of the course. The Client Support Officer is the first point of contact for clients wishing to access support services.

## Student participation

Successful completion of a course requires commitment from both the Cunningham Centre and participants. The Cunningham Centre has policies and procedures in place for the management of client appeals, complaints and grievances, and client discipline. Information about these procedures is provided in the Cunningham Centre Handbook.

The Queensland Health Code of Conduct (2006) is the standard for behaviour adopted by the Cunningham Centre for staff and clients.

## Access and Equity

The Cunningham Centre is committed to access and equity principles in the provision of this academic program. Clients who have concerns regarding barriers to successful participation in this program should discuss these with the Client Support Officer prior to enrolment. Such barriers may include cultural issues, language, literacy and numeracy, or disability.

## Disclaimer

Queensland Health has made every effort to ensure this information is accurate. However Queensland Health accepts no responsibility for any errors, omissions or inaccuracies in respect of the information contained in this brochure. Further, Queensland Health accepts no responsibility to persons who may rely upon this information for whatever purpose.

## Further Information

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[www.health.qld.gov.au/cunninghamcentre](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/cunninghamcentre)

This document was reviewed in November 2010

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