



Faculty of Health, Science and Technology  
Nursing Science

## Syllabus

### Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness

**Course Code:** OMG003

**Course Title:** Nursing in relation to symptoms and signs of illness  
*Omvårdnad vid symtom och tecken på ohälsa*

**Credits:** 37.5

**Degree Level:** Undergraduate level

**Progressive Specialisation:** First cycle, has less than 60 credits in first-cycle course/s as entry requirements (G1F)

**Major Field of Study:**

OMA (Nursing Science)

#### Course Approval

The syllabus was approved by the Faculty of Health, Science and Technology 2020-03-11, and is valid from the Autumn semester 2020 at Karlstad University.

#### Prerequisites

Registered on Fundamentals of Nursing and the Nursing Profession (30 ECTS credits), with at least 26 ECTS credits completed, and completed clinical placement (VFU) in Basic Clinical Nursing (30 ECTS credits), or equivalent

#### Learning Outcomes

Upon completion of the course, students should be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

1. Explain common and/or serious orthopedic, gastrointestinal, nephrologic, peripheral vascular and cardiovascular conditions and their specific treatment,
2. Give an account of common and/or serious mental health problems/ psychiatric conditions and their specific treatment,
3. Explain pain in terms of physiology, evaluation, analysis, and treatment,

4. Explain how individual background factors and situations can affect the patient's experience of ill health,
5. Describe chosen symptoms and how these are experienced by the patient and relate to symptom theory/model
6. Give an account of domestic violence and its effect on health

#### Competence and skills

7. Implement the principles of nursing practice in relation to basic and specific nursing and assess the degree of evidence in nursing interventions,
8. Perform dependent nursing interventions such as preparing, informing, implementing and evaluating examinations and treatments,
9. Keep a nursing record and apply information and communication technology,
10. Perform pharmaceutical calculation, assess the plausibility of calculations and prescriptions and handle pharmaceuticals safely,
11. Perform common medical technology methods independently,
12. Plan and organise nursing, and show initiative and ability to act adequately in expected and unexpected situations,
13. Apply laws, regulations, and guidelines pertaining to nursing in case of symptoms and signs of illness and in the drawing up of the care plan or in relation to specific nursing,
14. Adopt a patient safe approach in the nursing of the patient, and reflect on the importance of a patient safety culture.

#### Judgement and approach

15. Carry out basic and specific nursing with judgement, accuracy, and responsibility,
16. Identify ethical problems in the nursing of patients with symptoms and signs of illness and in the drawing up of the care plan,
17. Demonstrate self-knowledge, empathy, and professional conduct in dealing with patients, next of kin and staff.

#### **Content**

The course includes nursing (22 ECTS cr), integrated with medical science (15.5 ECTS cr). The course includes clinical placement (VFU) equivalent to 21 ECTS cr distributed as follows: surgery 7.5 ECTS cr, medicine 7.5 ECTS cr, and psychiatry 6 ECTS cr. Instruction is in the form of introductory lectures, specialised lectures, seminars, skills training, simulation, assignments, portfolio assignments, and reflective discussions.

#### Content:

Pathophysiology, symptoms, signs, diagnosis, treatment (including specific pharmaceuticals), prevention and specific treatment in relation to:  
-orthopedic illnesses  
-gastrointestinal illnesses  
-nephrologic illnesses  
-peripheral vascular and cardiovascular illnesses  
-psychiatric illnesses

#### Acute and chronic pain

-pre and post operative nursing, including transfusion, epidural, and drainage

#### Mental health problems

-treating people suffering from mental ill health  
-domestic violence (violence in close relationships)

#### Central concepts and theories relevant to nursing

-symptom theory  
-nursing ethics related to the nurse's ethical competence

## Care plan

- identifying needs, assessing and diagnosing nursing problems, risks and resources, setting goals, prescribing and applying evidence-based nursing interventions
- nursing documentation, e-health, and IT support

## Pharmaceutical calculation II

### Skills training

- S-CPR
- peripheral and central entrances
- feeding tube
- pharmaceutical handling regarding injection and infusion fluid and dilution of pharmaceuticals.

## Reading List

See separate document.

## Examination

Assessment is continuous and individual, and based on various written and oral exams: written exam, oral exam, take-home exam, seminar, self-evaluation, and peer review. Assessment is also based on practical performance/simulation and performance during clinical placement (VFU). For the clinical placement at least 32 hours attendance per week is required. Skills training sessions are mandatory.

Supplementary examination of the take-home exam is permitted if the result is close to the requirements for a Pass grade (only small revisions required). Additional material must be submitted within six days of notification. Only the additional material asked for by the teacher will be assessed in accordance with the assessment criteria, and if it does not reach the minimum level for a Pass, a grade of Fail will be reported.

A student who has failed to earn a Pass grade for course components is offered at least two more assessment opportunities within one year of the regular exam. A student who has failed to earn a Pass grade for the clinical placement is offered two more assessment opportunities as soon as circumstances permit.

If students have a decision from Karlstad University entitling them to Targeted Study Support due to a documented disability, the examiner has the right to give such students an adapted examination or to examine them in a different manner.

## Grades

One of the grades Fail (U), Pass (G) and Distinction (VG) is awarded in the examination of the course.

## Quality Assurance

Follow-up relating to learning conditions and goal-fulfilment takes place both during and upon completion of the course in order to ensure continuous improvement. Course evaluation is partly based on student views and experiences obtained in accordance with current regulations and partly on other data and documentation. Students will be informed of the result of the evaluation and of any measures to be taken.

**Course Certificate**

A course certificate will be provided upon request.

**Additional information**

The course cannot be included in the same degree programme as OMG203 and OMG204.

The local regulations for studies at the Bachelor and Master levels at Karlstad University stipulate the obligations and rights of students and staff.

Required course for the Nursing programme.

A student who, in the examiner's judgement, will fail to obtain a Pass grade for the practical training component on the grounds of grave and unprofessional conduct may be required to immediately discontinue the placement.

As stipulated in the Higher Education Act Chapter 4, sect. 6, SFS 1992: 1434, and Regulations of Student Expulsion from Higher Education SFS 2007: 989, a student who suffers from mental disorder, abuses alcohol or drugs, or has been guilty of a serious offence endangering others or valuable property can be expelled until further notice. In such a case, the Rector files a complaint to the Expulsion Board of Higher Education, which investigates the matter and makes a decision. A decision of expulsion shall always entail that the student must discontinue the education until further notice. The Expulsion Board of Higher Education is responsible for all Swedish higher education institutions.