

Unit Outline (Higher Education)

Institute / School:	Institute of Health and Wellbeing
Unit Title:	Pathology and Pharmacology in the Older Adult
Unit ID:	HEALA6400
Credit Points:	30.00
Prerequisite(s):	Nil
Co-requisite(s):	Nil
Exclusion(s):	Nil
ASCED:	060311

Description of the Unit:

The purpose of this unit is to prepare health care professionals with an in-depth understanding of the natural pathophysiological changes that occur as a function of the ageing process. The unit will explore the major body systems, the changes as a result of ageing and associated implications for practice. Pharmacology, including the implication for ageing on pharmacokinetics, pharmacodynamics and the concept of polypharmacy, are examined in the context of pathophysiological alterations.

Grade Scheme: Graded (HD, D, C, P, MF, F, XF)

Work Experience:

No work experience

Placement Component: No

Supplementary Assessment: Yes

Where supplementary assessment is available a student must have failed overall in the Unit but gained a final mark of 45 per cent or above, has completed all major assessment tasks (including all sub-components where a task has multiple parts) as specified in the Unit Description and is not eligible for any other form of supplementary assessment.

Course Level:

Level of Unit in Course	AQF Level of Course					
	5	6	7	8	9	10
Introductory	■	■	■	■	■	■
Intermediate	■	■	■	■	■	■
Advanced	■	■	■	✓	■	■

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge:

- K1.** Critically examine and explain the pathological effects of ageing and selected disease process at a cellular and systemic level and their associated manifestations in the older adult.
- K2.** Identify appropriate and inappropriate response to pharmacological therapy as a result of alterations in physiology associated with ageing.
- K3.** Analyse and describe the characteristics of physiological alterations or disease within each of the physiological systems and identify the etiological factors associated with the ageing process.

Skills:

- S1.** Critically evaluate the effect of physiological mechanisms of ageing and how they manifest in physical presentation.
- S2.** Identify and discuss the physiological factors that impact on the older adult at both a cellular and systemic level.
- S3.** Critically analyse the physiological and pathological changes associated with ageing and the possible beneficial and adverse outcomes of pharmacotherapy in the older adult through comprehensive assessment

Application of knowledge and skills:

- A1.** Interpret the epidemiology, physiologic changes, physical and psychological conditions commonly seen in older adults in the development of a coordinated approach to reducing drug related problems through the process of comprehensive geriatric assessment.
- A2.** Demonstrate a fundamental knowledge of how age related physiological changes in older adults can affect the pharmacokinetics and pharmacodynamics of common medications.

Unit Content:

Examination of each body system including the pathophysiology of normal ageing, common changes associated with ageing and their pharmacological management.

Learning Task and Assessment:

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S1, A1, A2	Critical analysis of contemporary issues associated with the physiological changes common in the older adult	Essay	40 - 60%
K1, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Application of advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology in the context of ageing	Case study	30 - 50%
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, A1, A2	Assessment of principles of advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology in the older adult.	Online Quizzes	10 - 30%

Learning Outcomes Assessed	Assessment Tasks	Assessment Type	Weighting
K1, K2, K3, S1, S2, S3, A1, A2	Satisfactory demonstration of clinically relevant knowledge associated with the advanced pathophysiology and pharmacology in the older adult	Assessment of key clinical knowledge within a workplace practice.	S/U Hurdle

Adopted Reference Style:

APA ()

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