



Division of Science, Health Professions, and Nursing Nursing Education Program

Medication Cards

Purpose: The nursing program requires all nursing students to prepare and maintain medication cards for use in the clinical setting to support safe medication administration, reinforce pharmacologic knowledge, and support clinical decision-making.

Procedure:

1. Medication cards should be prepared on standard size index cards, either 3" X 5", 4" by 6" or 5" by 8". Cards may be on white or colored paper. Students are permitted to use various color inks on the medication cards. It is recommended that student store their cards in an organized fashion, such as a ring or file folder box.
2. A separate medication card is required for each medication class.
3. Each medication card should include the following information:
 - a. Class of medication
 - b. Generic name and brand names of most commonly used medications in class
 - c. Medication indications (why the patient would receive the medication)
 - d. Basic description of the medication's mechanism of action (what the drug does)
 - e. Most common and serious side effects
 - f. Known contraindications to medication
 - g. Key points for patient education
 - h. Nursing implications
4. Medication information should be derived from current, reliable nursing or pharmacology references such as the course-approved textbooks or clinical drug guides. Medication cards may be reviewed by clinical faculty for completeness and accuracy.
5. Students must handwrite the medication card. Typed, electronically generated, or photocopied drug cards are not permitted. Students requiring academic accommodations should contact the MCCC Center for Accessibility Resources.
6. Medication cards are an individual learning requirement and must be prepared and maintained by each student. Students may not borrow, share, copy, photograph, or use medication cards prepared by another student in clinical.

7. Students must bring their completed medication cards to clinical each day. Failure to bring required medication cards to clinical may result in the student being restricted from medication administration for that clinical day.
8. Students may use their medication cards as a reference during medication preparation and administration in the clinical setting.
9. Students should be prepared to answer questions from their clinical instructor, patient, and patient support person about the medication.
10. Students are not required to memorize exact medication dosages. However, students are expected to demonstrate safe clinical judgment and a working knowledge of the medications they administer.
11. Students are expected to prepare medication cards for the classes of medications covered in their current and previous semesters. During clinical rotations, students may have the option to administer medications that have not been covered during their didactic learning. Students should collaborate with their clinical instructor to ensure safe medication administration in these cases.
12. Medication cards are intended to be cumulative and developmental across the nursing program. Students may retain and reuse medication cards from previous semesters; however, they are responsible for reviewing and updating all medication cards each semester to ensure information is complete, accurate, and consistent with current course content and clinical references.
13. Students may not use or refer to medication cards during exams, quizzes, or other formal assessments.

Effective Date: July 1, 2026

Approved by:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elizabeth A. Mizerek', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Elizabeth A. Mizerek, PhD, RN, FN-CSA, CNE, CEN, CPEN, FAEN
Dean, Science, Health Professions, and Nursing