

Ophthalmic Nursing for Registered Nurses

“Principles of Ophthalmic Nursing”

What does this course cover?

This course has been based in part on the United Kingdom Royal College of Nursing Competency Framework for Ophthalmic Nursing. It has been developed by the Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association of Queensland Inc. in conjunction with the Queensland University of Technology.

The aim of this unit is to provide students with contemporary knowledge and skills to meet the health needs of people with a variety of disorders of the eye. Knowledge and skills developed during this unit will enable the student to provide high quality care in their practice as an ophthalmic nurse and the ability to think critically when planning and providing ophthalmic care.

The course is comprised of nine modules:

- Overview: Role of the nurse in ophthalmology
- Module 1: Ocular anatomy and physiology
- Module 2: Optics and care of the patient with an error of refraction
- Module 3: Role of the ophthalmic nurse as educator
- Module 4: Ophthalmic pharmacology, patient safety and nursing responsibilities
- Module 5: Ophthalmic assessment of the patient
- Module 6: Care of the patient presenting with acute problems
- Module 7: The lens and care of the patient with cataract
- Module 8: The angle, aqueous and care of the patient with glaucoma
- Module 9: The retina, vitreous and care of the patient with a condition of the retina

After successful completion of this unit, participants will be able to:

1. Apply knowledge of ocular anatomy, physiology and optics to care decisions for patients in the ophthalmic setting
2. Discuss common ocular disease processes, including macular degeneration, cataract, glaucoma and diabetic eye disease
3. Use critical thinking to plan individualised care for a variety of patients with ophthalmic conditions
4. Utilise principles of education to promote health, prevent disease and support patient autonomy in the ophthalmic setting
5. Apply principles of pharmacodynamics and pharmacokinetics relating to ophthalmic practice
6. Explain the applications and associated safety considerations of specific treatments to ophthalmic patients
7. Critically analyse a variety of sources including research, practice literature and policy documents in order to improve ophthalmic nursing practice

Who should enrol?

Registered nurses enrolled in this subject should have at least 3 months experience working with patients requiring ophthalmic care. Additionally students should be employed at least part time in ophthalmic practice. This criterion enables the student to submit a clinical portfolio as part of the overall assessment of the unit.

How is the course delivered?

This course is conducted in external mode. A course outline, study guide and readings in CD format will be posted to participants. There is no requirement to attend the University throughout the duration of the course. Students require reliable mail and internet access to complete the course.

Recognition of the course

Those who successfully complete the modules and assessment for the course will receive a QUT endorsed Certificate of Completion. As awards vary from state to state with regard to payment for qualifications, you may need to seek advice from your employer with regard to recognition and remuneration for this course

What will it cost?

The complete course costs \$1200 including GST.

Additional costs: There is a set text book for the course which is:

Marsden, J. (2006) *Ophthalmic Care*, Wiley, West Sussex

Students will be required to purchase this text.

Students will be able to purchase the required text through the QUT Bookshop, <http://www.fmd.qut.edu.au/bookshop>.

All other course readings are provided on CD Rom, cost of which is included in the registration.

When is the course next offered?

Week commencing 25 July, 2011

What is the final date for enrolment?

Closing date for enrolment will be: Monday 11 July, 2011 (late registrations may be accepted)

How should I enrol?

Complete the Registration Form available from the School of Nursing website <http://www.hlth.qut.edu.au/nrs/study/cpe.jsp> or via the direct CPE Course Webpage at http://www.cpe.qut.edu.au/course_pages/2011/PONC011.html

Registration is completed online via a website link. Confirmation of registration will be sent.

Who is the Co-ordinator?

Amanda Wylie

Amanda Wylie has 19 years experience in ophthalmic nursing at various levels and in a wide range of practice settings. Amanda has had extensive involvement in the Australian Ophthalmic Nurses Association of Queensland Inc (AONAQ) and has been a member of that organisation since 1994, serving on the Executive Committee for 16 of those years. She is currently involved in contributing to the development of the Professional Practice Standards for Ophthalmic Nurses in Australia. Amanda has a Masters in Nursing (Health Services), a Post Graduate Certificate in Ophthalmic Nursing and Post Graduate Certificate in Clinical Teaching, and is a member of the Royal College of Nursing Australia.

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