

AACN Essentials of Critical Care Orientation

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION of CRITICAL-CARE NURSES

Overview

Created by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN), Essentials of Critical Care Orientation is an Internet-based program that provides novice nurses with the theoretical knowledge required to care for patients in the critical care arena. As the world's largest specialty nursing organization with over 65,000 members, AACN has designed the program using a body systems approach. The program consists of nine modules and presents the standard didactic content of a basic critical care course. The program easily integrates with group discussions, case studies, and clinical experiences. The testing mechanism may be used as a pre-assessment to determine the individual learner's needs as well as a post-assessment to check for concept comprehension. A suggested skills checklist is also included to assist in guiding the learner's clinical activities. The complete program contains 64 contact hours, offered by module.

Course List

Introduction to Critical Care Nursing Care of the Patient with Cardiovascular Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Assessment
- Lesson II: Cardiovascular Monitoring
- Lesson III: Cardiovascular Diseases
- Lesson IV: Invasive Procedures

Care of the Patient with Pulmonary Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology, and Physical Assessment
- Lesson II: Common Pulmonary Disorders
- Lesson III: Oxygen and Ventilation Delivery Devices

Care of the Patient with Neurologic Disorders of the Brain

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Assessment
- Lesson II: Common Neurologic Disorders
- Lesson III: Intracranial Pressure Monitoring and Management

Care of the Patient with Renal Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Function
- Lesson II: Fluid and Electrolyte Disturbances
- Lesson III: Acute and Chronic Renal Failure

Care of the Patient with Gastrointestinal Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Assessment
- Lesson II: Common Disorders
- Lesson III: Nutritional Support

Care of the Patient with Endocrine Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Physical Assessment
- Lesson II: Common Endocrine Disorders

Care of the Patient with Hematologic Disorders

- Lesson I: Anatomy, Physiology and Assessment
- Lesson II: Common Hematologic Disorders

Care of the Patient with Multisystem Disorders

- Lesson I: Shock
- Lesson II: SIRS, Sepsis and MODS
- Lesson III: Specialty Populations in Critical Care
- Lesson IV: Sedation and Analgesia in the Critically Ill Patient



Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is included in my subscription?

- Access to content, including text, tables, diagrams, graphics, animations, accompanying audio track, exams, PDF documents, and Web links for all modules
- Managerial access to tracking features and detailed test score reports
- Content updates
- 64 contact hours assigned by module
- Program documentation

2. Why should I choose the ECCO Program over alternative solutions?

ECCO offers a unique opportunity to create an orientation experience that meets the needs of the nurse learner and the institution. The program is designed to be used in a manner that combines the flexibility and “just-in-time” characteristics of Web-based training with tried and true learning activities to create an orientation experience that offers a program of instruction based on the learner’s individualized needs.

This exciting web-based program offers 64 contact hours of critical care nursing education. There are nine modules included in this program, beginning with an introductory module that discusses the critical care environment, patients and the nurse, and includes content on the Synergy Model and ethic of care. The remaining modules cover content on major body systems, as well as multi-system disorders. These modules are organized around anatomy and physiology, assessment and diagnostic tools, common disorders in the critically ill adult, and patient management principles. Also included as part of the cardiovascular module is the Pulmonary Artery Catheter Education Program (PACEP), a multi-lesson presentation on hemodynamic monitoring and the management of pulmonary artery catheters.

3. I understand utilizing e-learning for regulatory training, but how can it possibly be used for nurse training?

ECCO provides the basic didactic content of a critical care training course in a self-paced, interactive, just-in-time format. Combining the flexibility of ECCO with traditional educational activities such as clinical preceptorships, discussion groups, or reading assignments is referred to as blended learning. Blended learning provides the opportunity for flexibility and creativity in designing a unique orientation experience for nurses new to critical care.

4. Will the ECCO program help reduce cost in my organization?

Yes. Organizations should experience both soft and hard dollar savings using ECCO. First, ECCO reduces the amount of time that critical care educators have to spend preparing for and teaching the basic part of the critical care orientation class. This provides time that can be spent on other educational activities (supplemental materials, in-depth courses, managing the preceptor portion of the training, etc.).

Second, if the overall orientation process is reduced, then the educator will also see an additional savings in overall time devoted to completing the orientation process.

Third, because ECCO increases the speed to productivity for critical care nurse candidates, your organization spends less on registry nurses or overtime for existing staff nurses to fill gaps during unproductive time.

5. How long does the Web-based ECCO program take to complete?

Collectively, the nine ECCO courses take approximately 54 hours to complete. See the chart below titled “Completion Times and CE Credits” for details.

6. Does this program require any special technological configurations?

If your facility has a firewall or proxy server, your information technology department will need to make some adjustments to your network to allow users to reach three new web locations. If you have any questions about these requirements, please contact your HealthStream sales representative.

Target Audience

Critical care nurse trainees (i.e. nurses being hired, cross-trained, or relocated to serve as critical care nurses in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU), Medical or Surgical Intensive Care Unit (Med/Surg ICU), Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU), or Progressive/Telemetry/Step-Down Unit).

Completion Times and CE Credits

Module Title	Final Completion Time in Hours (Pilot Test Results)	CE Credits to be Awarded Per Module
Introduction to Critical Care Nursing	0.5	0.5
Care of the Patient with Cardiovascular Disorders	20.5*	25.0
Care of the Patient with Pulmonary Disorders	7.5	9.0
Care of the Neurologic Disorders	6.5	8.0
Care of the Renal Disorders	4.5	4.5
Care of the Patient with Gastrointestinal Disorders	3.5	4.0
Care of the Patient with Endocrine Disorders	4.0	5.0
Care of the Patient with Hematologic Disorders	1.0	1.0
Care of the Patient with Multisystem Disorders	6.0	7.0
Total	54.0†	64.0

*Includes completion time of PACEP program (www.pacep.org) that is included within the body of this module.

†CE credits awarded based on a 50-minute hour.

Screen Shots

AACN - Cardiovascular - Microsoft Internet Explorer

TEXT

To assess and document much of the cardiovascular assessment, it is important to understand where the anatomic reference points for the thoracic cavity are located.

The chest wall is divided horizontally by the spaces between the ribs, called the intercostal spaces, and vertically by imaginary lines. The vertical lines are described by the area within which they fall. These include the mid-clavicular line (MCL), the anterior axillary line, right sternal border (RSB), and left sternal border (LSB).

Lesson 1, Section B, Slide 28 of 34

JUMP TO TOPICS

- Lesson 1 Anatomy, Physiology and Assessment
- Lesson 2 Cardiovascular Monitoring
- Lesson 3 Cardiovascular Diseases
- Lesson 4 Invasive Procedures

Physical Assessment

Auscultation: Anatomical Landmarks

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TEXT

The pacemaker must be programmed to meet the specific needs of the patient. These settings include the sensitivity and the threshold.

The sensitivity threshold allows the pacemaker to detect the patient's inherent R wave. It is the ability of the pacemaker to recognize or "see" the intrinsic cardiac activity. The sensitivity is calibrated in millivolts (mV). The minimum R wave amplitude needed in order to be detected by the pulse generator is called the sensitivity threshold. After the sensitivity threshold is determined, the sensitivity control is set 2 to 3 times lower.

Lesson 4, Section B, Slide 4 of 33

JUMP TO TOPICS

- Lesson 4 Invasive Procedures
 - Section A - Coronary Arteriography, Cardiac Catheterization, and Percutaneous Coronary Interventions (PCI)
 - Section B - Pacemakers
 - Section C - Cardiac Surgery

Pacing Systems

Sensitivity

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