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**COURSE PREFIX/NO:** DHG 143  
**COURSE TITLE:** Dental Pharmacology  
**LEC HRS/WEEK:** 2.0  
**LAB HRS/WEEK:** 0.0  
**CREDIT HRS/SEMESTER:** 2.0

[Distance Learning Attendance/VA Statement](#)  
[Textbook Information](#)

### **COURSE DESCRIPTION**

This course provides a study of drugs used in dentistry. Emphasis is placed on the physical and chemical properties of the drugs, dosages, and therapeutic effects, methods of administration and indications/contraindications for the use of the drug. A study of dental anesthetics is included.

### **COURSE COMPETENCIES**

#### **Module I: General Principles**

1. Explain the principles of pharmacology to include pharmacokinetics, routes of administration, drug names and prescription writing.
2. Evaluate medical histories and the drugs a client takes for possible indications, contraindications, limitations, or alterations of dental treatment.

#### **Module II: Drugs Used in Dentistry**

1. Describe the central nervous system and identify the drug actions in the CNS.
2. Describe the autonomic nervous system and identify drugs affecting each system.
3. Identify common narcotic and non-narcotic drugs, their dental implications, and dangers.
4. Identify common anti-infective drugs, their medical and dental uses including prophylactic coverage regimens.
5. Identify antimicrobial agents in the prevention of treatment of infection.
6. Identify common local and general anesthetics with emphasis on comparing and contrasting different local anesthetics used in dentistry.
7. Discuss the concentration, types, and uses of fluoride in professionally applied fluoride treatments in water, prescribed pills and drops, dentifrices and mouthwashes.
8. Discuss the use of analgesics for effective pain.
9. Recognize drugs that serve as reversal agents for opioids and benzodiazepines.
10. Identify indications for use of pharmacologic methods in management of the anxious or fearful client.
11. Discuss pharmacologic approaches to managing fear and anxiety in the dental client to include:
  - a. conscious sedation
  - b. deep sedation
  - c. general anesthesia

### **Module III: Drugs that May Alter Dental Treatment**

1. Identify common drugs used to treat cardiovascular disease and their effect on dental treatment.
2. Identify common psychotherapeutic drugs.
3. Identify drugs used to treat respiratory and gastrointestinal problems.
4. Discuss the drugs used in cancer therapy and oral implications of cancer therapy.

### **Module IV: Special Situations**

1. Define drug abuse.
2. Recognize drug abuse characteristics and terminology.
3. Discuss dental complications of drug abuse.
4. Discuss the alterations in drug responsiveness that can be attributed directly to aging.
5. Discuss psychosocial factors that indirectly have an impact on how the elderly use and react to drugs.
6. Discuss Drugs used in Dentistry that effect pregnancy and Brest Feeding.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENT**

To successfully complete DHG 143, the dental hygiene student must fulfill the following requirements:

1. attend all scheduled lecture sessions
2. complete all assignments
3. complete and achieve an average of 80% or better on all tests and quizzes
4. contact the instructor prior to class in cases of unavoidable absence

### **ATTENDANCE**

If students are absent for more than 10% of the scheduled classes, they may be withdrawn. Three tardies constitute one absence.

### **METHOD OF INSTRUCTION**

- Lectures and PowerPoint Presentations
- Discussions
- Audio-visual aids
- Reading Assignments
- Handouts
- Written Tests
- Case Studies

### **Grading**

- A = 100 - 94  
B = 93 - 87  
C = 86 – 80  
D = 79 – 73  
F = 72 and below

**COREQUISITES:** DHG 255, DHG 230

**PRE-REQUISITES:** DHG 175, DHG 141, DHG 140

**Disabilities Statement:** Any student who feels s/he may need an accommodation based on the impact of a disability should contact the Special Resources Offices (SR) at 803-327-8007 in the 300 area of Student Services. The SRO coordinates reasonable accommodations for students with documented disabilities.