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Disability Services (DS) 1503 Introduction to Medication Support (3 Units) CSU  
[formerly Direct Support Education 3 and 1503; Social Science 3; Disability Studies 1503]

Prerequisite: None

Advisory: Eligibility for English 1500 strongly recommended

Hours and Unit Calculations:

48 hours lecture. 96 outside of class hours. (144 Total Student Learning Hours) 3 Units

Catalog Description: This course covers how to support people with disabilities in effectively and safely managing their medications. Information on how to work with medical professionals and safely store, administer, and handle medications is included. Since not all paraprofessionals have the same responsibilities in medication support due to different regulations and the varied needs of the persons being supported, the course provides concepts and tools that help to understand and address unique situations.

Type of Class/Course: Degree Credit

Text: *Physician's Desk Reference Pocket Guide to Prescription Drugs*, 10th ed. Books, 2013.

*Year 1, Session 4: Medication Management: Part 1 and Year 1, Session 5: Medication Management: Part 2*

URL: [https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/DSPT\\_StudentYear1FullVersion\\_20190308.pdf](https://www.dds.ca.gov/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/DSPT_StudentYear1FullVersion_20190308.pdf) Sessions 4 and 5

Course Objectives:

By the end of the course, a successful student will be able to:

1. be familiar with and be able to read labels for over-the-counter medications, prescription medications and herbal treatments,
2. describe specific circumstances that may increase the likelihood of adverse reactions and side effects,
3. list and describe the main points about controlled substances,
4. know the five steps that indicate a medication has been taken,
5. learn proper hand-washing and hygiene techniques before working with medications,
6. learn the proper procedure for storage and destruction of medications,
7. know methods for preventing errors during administration such as the "triple check" of the label,
8. know how to use a Medication Administration Record, and

9. be familiar with different references regarding drugs or medications.

Course Scope and Content:

Unit I Side Effects of Medications

- A. Harmful effects of medication not taken correctly
- B. Strategies that reduce medication errors
- C. Medication support needs for consumers
- D. Duties of a paraprofessional\_in the area of medication support

Unit II Legal Aspects of Working with Prescribed Medications

- A. Laws that apply to the paraprofessional\_in their roles in medication support
- B. Difference between a prescription and non-prescription medication, herbal and natural remedy, and nutritional supplement
- C. Medication errors
- D. Interaction of medications and disabilities
- E. Reporting and documenting side effects

Unit III Administration and Storage of Medications

- A. Consumer's health and medication history
- B. Identifying the right person and the right medication
- C. Storing, labeling, administering, and recording medications
- D. The "triple check"
- E. Methods of good hygiene and appropriate use of protective barriers

Unit IV Follow-up, Communication, and Documentation of Medications

- A. Effective communication and documentation needs
- B. Completing and updating a Medication Administration Record
- C. Reporting abuse, neglect, or exploitation with ethical standards

Unit V Using Medication References and Resources

- A. Medication resources
- B. Benefits and limitations of medication resources

Learning Activities Required Outside of Class:

The students in this class will spend a minimum of 6 hours per week outside of the regular class time doing the following:

1. Review online tutorials and multimedia
2. Complete writing and reading assignments
3. Participate in individual and group assignments

Methods of Instruction:

1. lectures
2. group discussions
3. class exercises



4. individual and/or group projects

Methods of Evaluation:

1. instructor evaluations
2. tests/quizzes
3. research paper
4. case studies

Supplemental Data:

TOP Code:	2104.50: Disability Services
SAM Priority Code:	D: Possibly Occupational
Distance Education:	Online; offline
Funding Agency:	Y: Not Applicable(funds not used)
Program Status:	1: Program Applicable
Noncredit Category:	Y: Not Applicable, Credit Course
Special Class Status:	N: Course is not a special class
Basic Skills Status:	N: Course is not a basic skills course
Prior to College Level:	Y: Not applicable
Cooperative Work Experience:	N: Is not part of a cooperative work experience education program
Eligible for Credit by Exam:	E: Credit By Exam
Eligible for Pass/No Pass:	C: Pass/No Pass
Taft College General Education:	NONE

Discipline:	Rehabilitation Assistant
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