NOVA COLLEGE-WIDE COURSE CONTENT SUMMARY
RTH 135 - DIAGNOSTIC AND THERAPEUTIC PROCEDURES (2 CR.)

Course Description

Focuses on purpose, use and evaluation of equipment and procedures used in the diagnosis and therapeutic management of patients with cardiopulmonary disease. Lecture 1 hour per week. Lab 2 hours per week. Total 3 hours per week.

General Course Purpose

Presents theory and techniques used for assessing patients with cardiopulmonary disease on mechanical ventilators and introduces the students to protocols and procedures for adjusting mechanical ventilation to arterial blood gas parameters. Liberation from mechanical ventilation is explored. Technique for drawing of arterial blood gases is demonstrated in the laboratory setting. This course is offered in the third semester of the respiratory care program.

Course Prerequisites/Corequisites

Prerequisites: Successful completion of the first two semesters of RTH courses or permission of the Assistant Dean of Respiratory Therapy.

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

- Adjust mechanical ventilators to achieve physiologic goals for oxygenation and ventilation
- Recognize and correct problems with adult positive pressure mechanical ventilators and artificial airways
- Assess the critical care patient for liberation from mechanical ventilation
- Develop and implement a respiratory care plan to facilitate liberation from mechanical ventilation
- Correctly perform endotracheal extubation
- Explain and perform the correct procedure for obtaining arterial blood gases (ABGs), and recognize sample errors.
- Explain the operation and maintenance of ABG analyzers and co-oximeters
- Perform, measure, and interpret pulmonary function studies

Major Topics To Be Included

- Monitoring the mechanically ventilated patient
- Liberation from mechanical ventilation
- Extubation
- ABG sampling and analysis
- Pulmonary Function Testing