

**NURS6450: Symptom Management in Clinical Practice**

Callaghan and Online  
Trimester 1 - 2024



## OVERVIEW

<b>Course Description</b>	This course examines the role of advanced practice nurses in supporting people and their families in the management of symptoms. Students will explore theoretical perspectives related to symptoms and their management; the patient and family experience of symptoms; the evidence base for nursing responses to the management of symptoms; and the contribution nursing makes to the interprofessional management of chronic and/or complex conditions.
<b>Academic Progress Requirements</b>	Nil
<b>Assumed Knowledge</b>	Foundational nursing knowledge: nursing theory, legal and ethical issues, fundamentals of research, human bioscience, psychology, sociology related to practice. Principles of investigative approaches in nursing, concepts and theories relevant to practice, contemporary nursing issues. Academic reading and writing skills, ability to access and evaluate information from a variety of sources, skills in critical analysis, critical judgement, synthesis and evaluation.
<b>Contact Hours</b>	<p><b>Callaghan</b> <b>Online Activity</b> Online 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1</p> <p><b>Self-Directed Learning</b> Self-Directed 8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1</p> <p><b>Tutorial</b> Face to Face On Campus 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s)</p> <p><b>Online</b> <b>Online Activity</b> Online 2 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1</p> <p><b>Self-Directed Learning</b> Self-Directed 8 hour(s) per week(s) for 12 week(s) starting Week 1</p>
<b>Unit Weighting</b>	10
<b>Workload</b>	Students are required to spend on average 120-140 hours of effort (contact and non-contact) including assessments per 10 unit course.

# COURSE OUTLINE

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# CONTACTS

<b>Course Coordinator</b>	<b>Callaghan and Online</b> Dr Phillip Newton <a href="mailto:Phillip.Newton@newcastle.edu.au">Phillip.Newton@newcastle.edu.au</a> (+61) 2 4348 4096 Consultation: Business Hours Monday – Friday. Contact via email: Business hours Monday – Friday, response will be within 48 hours. Individual Consultations: Monday and Wednesday via Zoom. These 10 minute sessions can be booked via the NURS6450 Canvas Calendar.
<b>Teaching Staff</b>	Other teaching staff will be advised on the course Canvas Site
<b>School Office</b>	<b>School of Nursing and Midwifery</b> Richardson Wing University of Newcastle University Drive Callaghan NSW  <b>Phone</b> (+61) 2 4921 6304 <b>Web</b> <a href="http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery">http://www.newcastle.edu.au/school/nursing-midwifery</a>
<b>General Enquiries</b>	<a href="mailto:AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au">AskUoN@newcastle.edu.au</a> (+61) 2 4921 5000
<b>Program &amp; Enrolment Advice</b>	<a href="mailto:Programadvice@newcastle.edu.au">Programadvice@newcastle.edu.au</a>
<b>Student Support</b>	For academic and personal support services for students, visit <a href="https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support">https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/support</a>

# SYLLABUS

<b>Course Content</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advanced nursing practice and symptom/symptom cluster management</li><li>• Nursing responses to acute, short term symptoms and long term conditions</li><li>• Theoretical frameworks for symptom management</li><li>• Models of care for effective symptom management</li><li>• The experience and impact of symptoms on patients, families and communities</li><li>• Research and evidence based practice related to symptom management</li><li>• Evaluation of symptom management</li></ul>
<b>Course Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>On successful completion of this course, students will be able to:</b> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Appreciate that supporting people to manage acute and chronic symptoms is a central element of nursing practice</li><li>2. Differentiate between beginning nurse and advanced practice nurse functions and activities in symptom management</li><li>3. Evaluate theoretical perspectives of symptom management</li><li>4. Identify the relationship between nursing response to symptom management and client and system outcomes</li><li>5. Apply nursing and other frameworks to clinical practice situations</li><li>6. Justify nursing responses to selected symptoms/clusters of symptoms</li></ol>
<b>Course Materials</b>	Resources available on Canvas Course Site

# COMPULSORY REQUIREMENTS

In order to pass this course, each student must complete ALL of the following compulsory requirements:

## Course Assessment Requirements:

- Assessment 1 - Quiz: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 2 - Written Assignment 1: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.
- Assessment 3 - Written Assignment 2: Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course.

# SCHEDULE

Week	Week Begins	Topic	Assessment Due
1	29 Jan	Module 1: Symptom Management Theory Welcome and introduction to course and assessments	
2	5 Feb	Symptom management theories and models	
3	12 Feb	The role of evidence-based practice in managing patient symptoms in the clinical setting	
4	19 Feb	Symptom management across the disease trajectory (acute and chronic management) and factors that can affect adequate management of symptoms.	
5	26 Feb	Module 2: Symptom and symptom cluster management: assessment and diagnostic tools Common symptom assessment tools used in clinical practice	Assessment 1 - Quiz: Due Sunday 3rd March 2024 by 23:00 AEDT
6	4 Mar	A holistic overview of symptom burden for patients and caregivers	
7	11 Mar	Person centred management of symptoms	Assessment 2 - Written Assessment. Due Monday 11th March 2024 at 23:00 AEDT
8	18 Mar	The advanced clinician's role in the management of symptoms	
9	25 Mar	Module 3: Evidenced base interventions for symptom management Best practice interventions to relieve/ improve symptoms. What does the evidence say?	
10	1 Apr	Critically analysing the evidence. Are the current symptom management strategies/interventions supported by the evidence?	Assessment 3 - Written Assessment. Due Friday 5th April 2024 at 23:00 AEDT
11	8 Apr	Symptom management planning and implementation	
12	15 Apr	Strengthening the role of nurses/ advanced clinicians in supporting patients to manage their symptoms effectively	

# ASSESSMENTS

This course has 3 assessments. Each assessment is described in more detail in the sections below.

	Assessment Name	Due Date	Involvement	Weighting	Learning Outcomes
1	Quiz*	Closes Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	15%	1, 2, 3
2	Written Assignment 1*	Monday 11th March 2024 at 23:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	35%	3, 4, 5
3	Written Assignment 2*	Friday 5th April 2024 at 23:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)	Individual	50%	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

\* This assessment has a compulsory requirement.

## Late Submissions

The mark for an assessment item submitted after the designated time on the due date, without an approved extension of time, will be reduced by 10% of the possible maximum mark for that assessment item for each day or part day that the assessment item is late. Note: this applies equally to week and weekend days.

## POSTGRADUATE COURSES ASSESSMENT AND REFERENCING ADVICE

### ASSESSMENTS

If you need to apply for an extension for an assessment, you should follow the process described in your Course Outline under the heading "Adverse Circumstances". Please note you will be required to submit documents to support your application.

**Please do not email your tutor or course coordinator to request an extension because they cannot approve applications for extensions unless they have been submitted using the Adverse Circumstances process.**

### Formatting your assessments

General advice - Use standard (default) margins, double line spacing and 12 point font in your assessments. If you have additional instructions about using headings or an essay format or other formats (such as blogs) - please follow instructions provided for individual assessments.

### Word count

The length of the assessment is an indication of the number of words needed to address the assessment task. This is a guide, however some students have difficulty keeping their writing within the specified word count. If your assessment exceeds the word count by 10%, the assessment will be marked. **Markers may stop marking if your assessment exceeds the word count by more than 10%.** Please note the following information from the UON Course Management and Assessment Procedure Manual (Item 250 and 251):

**"Word limits include headings, sub-headings, in-text citations, quotes and referencing but does NOT include the list of references, appendices and footnotes. The Course Co-ordinator will allow a tolerance of at least 10% of the word limit"** (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=183>).

### REFERENCING

Your assessments must be appropriately referenced. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may have lower marks awarded.

Assessments that contain information from other sources that have not been referenced and where it appears that the student is presenting another person's work or ideas as their own, will be referred to the SACO officer. This constitutes a potential breach of the Student Academic Integrity Policy (<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>).

### What should be referenced?

All sources of published information including textbooks, journal articles, course readings, websites, guidelines, policies

government documents that have been used to prepare an assessment MUST be included in the assessment as an in-text citation AND on the reference list.

Any documents provided to you to use in the preparation of an assessment must be referenced. Direct quotes MUST be referenced. However, please note direct quotes should be used sparingly and should not normally constitute more than 10% of an assessment.

Information that you have paraphrased in your assessment must also be referenced. Correct citation of sources and referencing is expected in scholarly writing at Masters level. Assessments that are not correctly referenced may be penalised (lower marks awarded).

### Correct referencing style

You are required to use APA 7th Referencing Style in all of your assessments (unless otherwise stated). Check this link for details about using APA 7th Style: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/apa-7th>.

### Making referencing easier

Referencing your assessments is easier if you use a Reference Management Program such as “Endnote”. There is information in Canvas that will assist you to access and use the Endnote referencing program.

Select: “Library Essentials” at the top right of your screen, then select “Referencing” from the list of options on the left side the screen, and then scroll down to select “Endnote”. Or click on this link: <https://libguides.newcastle.edu.au/endnote>.

### Academic Integrity

All new students must complete the [Academic Integrity Module](#) (AIM), which can be accessed via the Dashboard in Canvas.

## Assessment 1 - Quiz

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Quiz
<b>Purpose</b>	The purpose of the online quiz is to determine student’s understanding of the course material of course learning outcomes 1, 2 and 3
<b>Description</b>	A quiz of 15 multiple choice questions. Students will have 30 minutes to complete the quiz. The quiz will be open for 7 days commencing Monday February 27 at 09:00, closing Sunday March 3, 2024 at 23:00 AEDT. You will only be allowed one attempt during this timeframe
<b>Weighting</b>	15%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	15 questions, 30 minutes
<b>Due Date</b>	Closes Sunday 3rd March 2024 at 23:00hrs Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	N/A
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	No Feedback
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## Assessment 2 - Written Assignment 1

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	The rationale for this assessment task is to provide the student with an opportunity to acquire a better understanding about a chosen symptom/cluster of symptoms, and advance knowledge concerning the measurement tools and assessments related to the symptom.
<b>Description</b>	You are required to choose a symptom or cluster of symptoms that patients experience within your area of specialty (nurse/midwifery/health care). The symptom you choose should be of importance in terms of prevalence, incidence and impacts on patient(s) in the clinical setting where you practise. We would strongly suggest that you continue to work on the symptom chosen for this assessment in assessment 3.

You are required to choose a symptom or cluster of symptoms that patients experience within your area of specialty (nurse/midwifery/health care). The symptom you choose should be of importance in terms of prevalence, incidence and impacts on patient(s) in the clinical setting where you practise. We would strongly suggest that you continue to work on the symptom chosen for this assessment in assessment 3.

Your assessment task should address the following points:

1. Introduction (approximately 150 words): Identify and introduce a symptom/cluster of symptoms (ensure you identify the potential aetiology/origin of the symptom(s))
2. Background (approximately 400 words): Justify the symptom/cluster relevance and importance to your practice with relationship to prevalence, incidence and impact/experiences (symptom burden) on patients and/or their carers.
3. Assessment (approximately 300 words): Identify and briefly describe the relevant (focused) measurement tool/assessment that can be used to assess this symptom/cluster and high-quality contemporary best-practice evidence to support this tool/assessment. If there are multiple tools and assessments, focus on one most relevant to the symptom/cluster.
4. Conclusion (approximately 150 words): provide a summary of key points.
5. Reference: in APA 7th style

PLEASE NOTE: All sections must be supported by current, high-quality peer-reviewed literature.

<b>Weighting</b>	35%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	1000 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Monday 11th March 2024 at 23:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	In Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Within 3 weeks from submission date
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## Assessment 3 - Written Assignment 2

<b>Assessment Type</b>	Written Assignment
<b>Purpose</b>	This assessment task aims to develop your ability to evaluate, interpret and apply high quality evidence by critically analysing and presenting best practice interventions to optimise care and symptom management in advanced clinical practice.
<b>Description</b>	You will take the knowledge that you have gained from Assessment 2 and further develop your knowledge of symptom management through the application to a patient case study of your choice (you may choose to use the same symptom/cluster from Assessment 2).

An introduction is not required.

Your assessment task must address the following points and use these headings:

1. Overview (approximately 250 words): Provide a brief overview of your patient case

(pseudonyms must be used) including the symptom/symptom cluster.

2. Symptom Management Model Application (approximately 350 words): Discuss the symptom/cluster burden focusing on a specific domain of the Symptom Management Model (Dodd et al. 2001)
3. Analysis (600 words): A) Identify and briefly discuss two interventions for symptom relief that were implemented in your case study. Critically analyse these two interventions with current evidence to determine if best-practice is optimised.
4. Best Practice Summary (approximately 300 words): Summarise the key points and best practice evidence-based interventions that will optimise care and symptom management for your patient/case.
5. References: in APA 7th style.

<b>Weighting</b>	50%
<b>Compulsory Requirements</b>	Submit assessment item - Must submit this assessment to pass the course
<b>Length</b>	1500 words
<b>Due Date</b>	Friday 5th April 2024 at 23:00 Australian Eastern Daylight Time (AEDT)
<b>Submission Method</b>	Online
<b>Assessment Criteria</b>	In Canvas
<b>Return Method</b>	Online
<b>Feedback Provided</b>	Online - Within 3 weeks by submission date
<b>Opportunity to Reattempt</b>	Students WILL NOT be given the opportunity to reattempt this assessment

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Grading Scheme** This course is graded as follows:

Range of Marks	Grade	Description
85-100	High Distinction (HD)	Outstanding standard indicating comprehensive knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an outstanding level of academic achievement; mastery of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
75-84	Distinction (D)	Excellent standard indicating a very high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a very high level of academic ability; sound development of skills*; and achievement of all assessment objectives.
65-74	Credit (C)	Good standard indicating a high level of knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of a high level of academic achievement; reasonable development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
50-64	Pass (P)	Satisfactory standard indicating an adequate knowledge and understanding of the relevant materials; demonstration of an adequate level of academic achievement; satisfactory development of skills*; and achievement of all learning outcomes.
0-49	Fail (FF)	Failure to satisfactorily achieve learning outcomes. If all compulsory course components are not completed the mark will be zero. A fail grade may also be awarded following disciplinary action.

\*Skills are those identified for the purposes of assessment task(s).

**Communication Methods**

Communication methods used in this course include:

- Canvas Course Site: Students will receive communications via the posting of content or announcements on the Canvas course site.
- Email: Students will receive communications via their student email account.
- Face to Face: Communication will be provided via face to face meetings or supervision.

**Course Evaluation**

Each year feedback is sought from students and other stakeholders about the courses offered in the University for the purposes of identifying areas of excellence and potential improvement.

**Oral Interviews (Vivas)**

As part of the evaluation process of any assessment item in this course an oral examination (viva) may be conducted. The purpose of the oral examination is to verify the authorship of the material submitted in response to the assessment task. The oral examination will be conducted in accordance with the principles set out in the [Oral Examination \(viva\) Procedure](#). In cases where the oral examination reveals the assessment item may not be the student's own work the case will be dealt with under the [Student Conduct Rule](#).

**Academic Misconduct**

All students are required to meet the academic integrity standards of the University. These standards reinforce the importance of integrity and honesty in an academic environment. Academic Integrity policies apply to all students of the University in all modes of study and in all locations. For the Student Academic Integrity Policy, refer to <https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=35>.

**Adverse Circumstances**

The University acknowledges the right of students to seek consideration for the impact of allowable adverse circumstances that may affect their performance in assessment item(s). Applications for special consideration due to adverse circumstances will be made using the online Adverse Circumstances system where:

1. the assessment item is a major assessment item; or
2. the assessment item is a minor assessment item and the Course Co-ordinator has specified in the Course Outline that students may apply the online Adverse Circumstances system;
3. you are requesting a change of placement; or
4. the course has a compulsory attendance requirement.

Before applying you must refer to the Adverse Circumstance Affecting Assessment Items Procedure available at:

<https://policies.newcastle.edu.au/document/view-current.php?id=236>

**Important Policy Information**

The Help button in the Canvas Navigation menu contains helpful information for using the Learning Management System. Students should familiarise themselves with the policies and procedures at

<https://www.newcastle.edu.au/current-students/respect-at-uni/policies-and-procedures> that support a safe and respectful environment at the University.

*This course outline was approved by the Head of School. No alteration of this course outline is permitted without Head of School approval. If a change is approved, students will be notified and an amended course outline will be provided in the same manner as the original.*

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