ADVANCED WOUND CARE MANAGEMENT

Module Code: NU438
Credit Weighting: 10 ECTS
Contact Hours: 12 (plus allow 203hrs per week x 10 weeks distance learning)
Timing: Trimester 2 (January - March)
Module Leader: Marcella Kelly, School of Nursing & Midwifery, NUI Galway

Module Description
Wound care and prevention has grown from limited beginnings to a highly complex specialty with an increasing arena of products, aids and appliances. This requires practitioners to have a highly developed knowledge of physiological and pharmacological concepts in order to provide the patient with the most appropriate treatment and care. This module aims to give practitioners opportunities to explore the subject in depth to enable critical practice in this specialised area of care. The demands of wound care and prevention require comprehensive and detailed analysis of the physiological and psychosocial components of the patient experience along with technical and practical skills to perform holistic assessment and to provide safe and effective treatment based upon current evidence.

Learning Outcomes
At the end of this module the practitioner will be able to:
- Develop a critical understanding of the physiology of healing and analyse in depth factors which affect healing
- Evaluate critically the process of holistic assessment and appraise tools and strategies which will facilitate this
- Examine critically and evaluate the evidence base for the care and management of clients with acute and chronic wounds and be able to predict likely outcomes of treatment based on such evidence
- Reflect critically upon current developments in health and social policy and legislation which impact upon wound care and prevention and resource allocation.
- Debate the ethical and legal issues influencing clinical decision making relating to wound care and prevention
- Develop advanced practical skills of wound assessment, management and evaluation.

Module Content
This module has five distance learning units (2 weeks each) supported by two workshop days.
- Unit 1: Wound healing and holistic assessment
- Unit 2: Wound management
- Unit 3: Pressure ulcer prevention
- Unit 4: Wound infection
- Unit 5: Professional practice issues
The workshops facilitate advanced skills in assessment, differential diagnosis, selection of appropriate treatments and wound management techniques.

Teaching and Learning Strategies
Online distance learning and face-to-face workshops.

Assessment Strategy
30%: continuous assessment (E-tivities and online participation)
70%: A case study of a patient with a tissue viability problem
A laboratory-based skills assessment must also be passed to complete the module.