

## Mrs. J's Tips for N 110 Pharmacology Math Success

1. Complete Chapters 1 through 6 in your *Medical Dosage Calculations* workbook. In Nursing 110 we will be covering math for **non-parenteral** medications, because you will be administering these medications in the clinical settings! *Do you know what non-parenteral means?*
2. Be sure to begin with Chapter 1, *Arithmetic Review*. Many students choose to skip this chapter, but I highly recommend completing the practice sets. You will quickly realize what you have forgotten. If you need to work on arithmetic, there are tutors available for free on campus. What a bargain! *By the way, do you know there is an arithmetic test during the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of the semester?*
3. *Chapter 4* introduces you to *the 3 Systems of Measurement*. *Can you list them?* You must **memorize all equivalents** just like you memorized 12 inches = 1foot! This information is important when you begin converting medications from one system of measurement to another. You do not need to know drams or minims from the Apothecary system, because they are seldom used in practice today. Start now to memorize...Practice with a friend or use flash cards!
4. Complete *Chapter 3* on *Dimensional Analysis*. If you have taken Chemistry it will look very familiar. This is the approach the nursing faculty recommends because it is easy to apply. However, you may use other methods if they are more suitable to your learning style. *Did you know, there are 5 pharmacology math problems on every test which equal 10 points?* You will need to be accurate and able to complete them in a timely manner.
5. When calculating math in Adult Health, always carry all work out to **the hundredths** and **round to the tenths**.
6. **Numbers less than 1** should always be written with a 0 in front of the decimal. For example, 0.4 grams not .4 grams. However, never place a 0 after a decimal. For example, 4 grams not 4.0 grams. This approach helps to prevent errors when orders are interpreted.
7. Remember, for testing purposes in order for a math calculation to be correct, it must have **the number and the label!** For instance, 2 capsules, not 2. We are looking for both comprehension and accuracy.
8. Plan to attend a **Pharmacology Math Workshop**.
9. Finally, to become proficient, practice, practice, practice! Commit to completing at least 2 pharmacology math problems every day.