

# NURSING NEWS

Western Area CTC LPN Newsletter



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Jessica, Shawnelle and Amari

## SIM Lab

On Thursday, January 4, three of the seven full-time daylight class participated in their first simulation lab with Mrs. Morell. In this simulation our high fidelity manikin ALEX was 70-year-old Mrs. Bloom, who was admitted to the hospital with shortness of breath, chest pain and swelling in her legs and feet. She later admits that she has congestive heart failure (CHF).

ALEX is a great manikin to work with because he is interactive! He has a pulse, lung sounds, a heart beat, can cough, wheeze, speak and more! This makes simulation exercises more realistic for the students.

For this experience, Jessica Ahl was assigned the role of charge nurse, Shawnelle Jackson was the licensed practical nurse and Amari Turner was the nurse aide. Simulation is used to help the students put the pieces of nursing together in a practical way.



## NCLEX Knowledge Test

1. The nurse is taking the health history of a 70-year-old client being treated for a Duodenal Ulcer. After being told the client is complaining of epigastric pain, the nurse expects to note which assessment finding?

- A. Melena
- B. Nausea
- C. Hernia
- D. Hyperthermia



2. Which oral disorder appears as yellow or white spots on the oral mucosa that are not possible to scrape off without bleeding?

- A. Herpes simplex
- B. Candidiasis
- C. Alphthous ulcers
- D. Leukoplakia

3. Which type of cancer has the poorest prognosis?

- A. Squamous cell carcinoma
- B. Breast Cancer
- C. Pancreatic cancer
- D. Gastric cancer



4. The client is to receive 2000mL of lactated ringer's over 36 hours. The IV infusion set has a drop factor of 15 drops per milliliter. The nurse should set the IV to deliver how many drops per minute?

- A. 8
- B. 10
- C. 14
- D. 18

5. The nurse is caring for a client with the following labs:

Creatinine 2.5 mg/dL  
WBC 11,000 cells/mL  
Hemoglobin 12 g/dL

Based on this information, which of these orders would the nurse question?

- A. Administer 30 units of Lantus daily
- B. CT of the spine with contrast
- C. X-ray of the abdomen and chest
- D. Administer heparin subcutaneous 5,000 units every 12 hours

6. A nurse is caring for a client with a cast on the right leg. Which of these assessment findings would most concern the nurse?

- A. The capillary refill time is 2 seconds
- B. The patient complains of itching and discomfort
- C. The cast has a foul-smelling odor
- D. The patient is on antibiotics



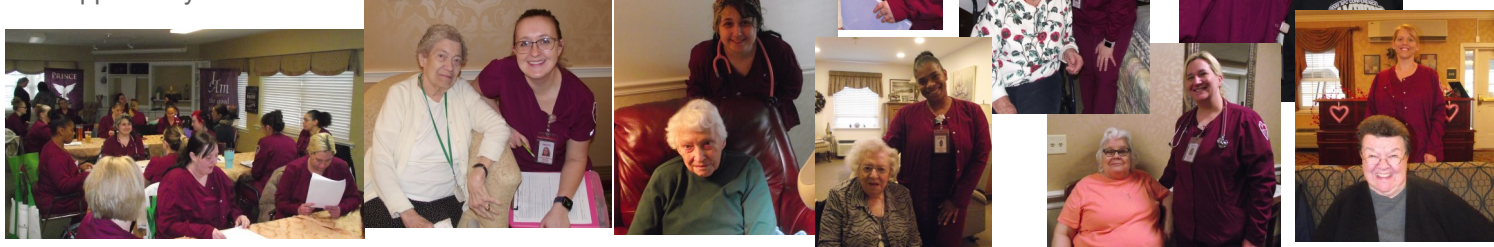
<https://www.facebook.com/westernareactc/>



## Elder Assessment

On Monday, January 15, our part-time evening 1st year class took a trip to Country Meadows Retirement Community to complete elder assessments. These assessments are used to help the students learn to speak with elderly clients and ask some of the uncomfortable questions required of those in the medical field.

While at the facility for this assignment, the staff discussed employment opportunities, the students were given a tour, and lunch was provided. Many thanks to Rae Schell for partnering with WACTC and organizing this opportunity.



## New LPNs

Late in December, Alana Morris and Doricah Mogire took the NCLEX exam and passed on the first attempt! If you're counting with us that makes 8 recent graduates who have passed on the first attempt!



PASSED! Don't panic, just wait for that positive score.

Alana says to definitely use your Kaplan and uWorld resources! The school pays for them and everything in there is so helpful. She says to be confident in your learning-This program prepares you to pass, not only the NCLEX, but on the floor everything is familiar! And finally, if your exam shuts off at 85 or above-you



Doricah had quite a journey through our practical Nursing Program. Due to some health issues in her first year, she had to take time off and return later with a different class! Then, the day of graduation, she was in a severe car accident and had to recover and heal before she could take her exam!

Doricah's advice is to answer questions, lots and lots of questions! She says to read the rationales if you answer correctly or incorrectly. Doricah also used uWorld which she found to be very helpful and suggests that test takers study the areas where they are less confident and get answers wrong to build knowledge.

*"To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake it is necessary to stand out in the cold."-Aristotle.*

## Pediatrics SIM Lab

On Monday, January 29, our part-time second year students participated in a pediatric simulation. In this scenario, our recently repaired pediatric manikin, Hal, was a 7-year-old boy named Ryan who came to the emergency department with his mother after experiencing a severe asthma attack.

For this simulation, Chelsea Jones was assigned the role of charge nurse, Meghan Mannella was the LPN and Jordan White was the Nurse Aide. We also want to recognize Cindy Kappeler, one of the part-time first year students, who kindly volunteered to play the part of young Ryan's mother for this scenario.

Sadly, Ryan did not survive. In trying to save his life, the students had to call a code, place a tracheostomy and perform CPR. Many times simulation does not end on a happy note; this specific scenario was intended to teach the students how to handle a pediatric emergency and properly deal with the family in the aftermath.

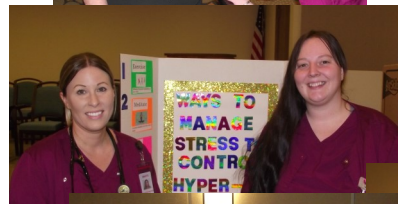




A photograph showing three students in maroon uniforms practicing medical procedures on a mannequin. One student is wearing gloves and appears to be performing a procedure on the mannequin's arm, while the others observe.



## A photograph of two women standing behind a large sign that reads "HOW TO LOWER CHOLESTEROL". The sign is white with the words in large, colorful, block letters. The woman on the left is wearing a red top and has blonde hair. The woman on the right is wearing a purple top and has dark hair. An American flag is visible in the background.



## A close-up photograph of a newborn baby lying down. The baby is wearing a pink ribbed long-sleeved onesie and a brown and white patterned headband with a large bow. The baby's eyes are closed, and they are lying in a white, textured blanket. The background is softly blurred, showing more of the blanket and a hint of a person's face on the right.



# WE ARE HIRING

## PRACTICAL NURSING INSTRUCTOR :

- Current PA nursing license
- Bachelor's Degree in nursing; Master's preferred
- Nursing experience involving direct patient care within two years of employment
- Mandated clearances and drug screening required
- \$60,000 Salary



**CONTACT US !**

📞 724-746-0467

✉️ [fmorelli@wactc.net](mailto:fmorelli@wactc.net)



# Admissions Testing Schedule

We have scheduled our Kaplan entrance exam dates for admittance to the September 2024 Practical Nursing Program. If you plan to enroll in the fall program, you must attend one of these dates to be considered for the program as this is the first step of the admission process. All tests are administered in person at our Canonsburg Campus, and begin promptly at 9:00 AM.

**Optional Testing Dates:**

- Tuesday, February 6, 2024
- Wednesday, February 21, 2024
- Wednesday, March 10, 2024
- Thursday, April 11, 2024
- Wednesday, April 24, 2024
- Thursday, May 9, 2024
- Wednesday, May 22, 2024
- Thursday, June 13, 2024

- Wednesday, June 26, 2024
- Thursday, July 11, 2024
- Wednesday, July 31, 2024

**Please RSVP to Jessica at 724-746-0467, to reserve your preferred testing date. Space is limited, so please reply promptly.**

The testing fee of \$45.00 (cash, debit/credit card, check or money order payable to WACTC LPN Program), must be paid BEFORE your scheduled exam date. If you do not pay, you will not be permitted to sit the exam.

If you have a certification as a Medical Assistant or Nurse Aide, we will waive the entrance exam. Please contact Jessica directly if this new policy applies to you.

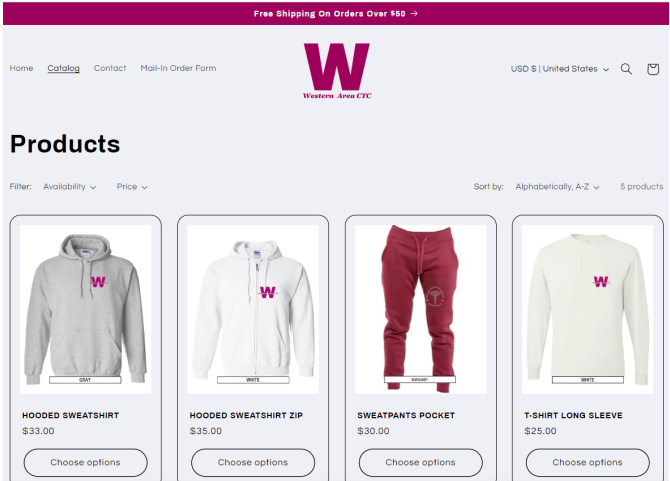
## WACTC Health Sciences Merch

Don't forget to order your Health Sciences Merchandise! We are selling tee-shirts, long-sleeve tees, hoodies, zip-hoodies and sweatpants in 3 color options! The best part is that 10% of sales will come back to the program to add to our scholarship funds!



<https://wactcfundraiser.myshopify.com/>

You can expect your order to be delivered in 2-3 weeks!



## Contributions?

### Share Your Thoughts



We welcome input from students, alumni, faculty and clinical institutions. Submissions can be made to the health sciences secretary, Jessica at [jpettigrew@wactc.net](mailto:jpettigrew@wactc.net) or by calling 724-746-0467. Thank you in advance for your contributions.



February is:

### American Heart Month

Visit the American Heart Association at:

<https://www.heart.org/>

## NCLEX Knowledge Question Answers:

- 1. **A.** Melena is the finding that there are traces of blood in the stool which presents as black, tarry feces. This is a common finding as the Duodenum is further down the gastric anatomy.
- 2. **B.** Candidiasis is characterized with yellow or white spots on the oral mucosa.
- 3. **C.** Pancreatic cancer is not symptomatic, and therefore, it is diagnosed after the point when a surgical removal can be performed. It has a rapid course and is characterized with a high degree of mortality.
- 4. **C.** 14-Drops per minute=Milliliters X Drop Factor / Time in Minutes
- 5. **B.** The creatinine level for this client indicates impaired kidney function. Contrast is nephrotoxic and is contraindicated for patients with nephropathy.
- 6. **C.** A foul-smelling odor is a sign of infection or a pressure ulcer within the cast. Other symptoms include a feeling of warmth, tightness and pain.