

Portfolio: Medications and Counseling

HSCD 620: Psychopharmacology

The majority of individuals in counseling for substance use and co-occurring disorders are prescribed one or more medications. Counselors are not prescribers, nurses or pharmacists, yet they provide essential support for those whose treatment includes medication. In this paper, students will discuss how they will integrate their understanding of psychopharmacology with the client care they provide.

Consider the following in your discussion:

- your therapeutic relationship approach and how it helps clients progress toward treatment/service goals in general
- the purpose of providing psychoeducation to clients regarding how addictive drugs work, and how you go about it
- the purpose of providing psychoeducation to clients regarding how medications work and what to expect from them, and how you go about it
- the role of the counselor in supporting adherence to medication recommendations (include medication management of both substance use and mental health disorders in your discussion)
- the possible benefits of family psychoeducation on medications used to treat substance use and mental health disorders, including support for their understanding of the disorders in question as well as medication adherence
- the importance of recognizing signs and symptoms that may require immediate referral to medical services (e.g., intoxication, withdrawal, sudden changes in health status)

Your paper is to be 6-8 pages in length and written in APA style, and is due by May 1. Total possible points: 200

See next page for the grading rubric.

Grading Rubric:

Points Possible	Points Earned	Grading Rubric	Comments
30		discusses therapeutic relationship approach as it supports client progress toward goals	
24		outlines purpose of psychoeducation regarding actions of addictive drugs, with examples	
24		describes method(s) of psychoeducation regarding actions of addictive drugs	
24		outlines purpose of psychoeducation regarding actions of relevant medications, with examples	
24		describes method(s) of psychoeducation regarding actions of relevant medications	
30		discusses counselor's role in supporting adherence to medication recommendations	
24		describes possible benefits of family psychoeducation regarding drugs and medications	
30		discusses situations in which counselor may need to make immediate medical referral	
10		accurately uses APA style	
10		demonstrates very good to excellent writing skills, e.g., appropriate organization and correct grammar, spelling and punctuation	
200	0	TOTAL	