

Course Descriptor

High-Risk Medicines: the APINCHS Classification · OBA-HRM-2026

DOCUMENT CONTROL

- Programme: High-Risk Medicines: the APINCHS Classification (OBA-HRM-2026)
- Audience: Student and Facilitator · public-facing
- Version 1.0 | Issued 18/09/2026 | Review due 18/09/2027
- Provider: OBA Nursing Academy

High-Risk Medicines: the APINCHS Classification

A fully self-directed, entirely online professional development programme for nurses, care workers, student nurses and family carers. 10.5 CPD hours.

Course code	OBA-HRM-2026
Provider	OBA Nursing Academy
Duration	10.5 CPD hours, self-paced
Delivery	Entirely online, self-directed, through the OBA learning management system
Modules	11, plus a case study assessment and a summative assessment
Assessment	60 single-best-answer items, 80% pass mark, 2 attempts
Entry requirements	None. Content is written for a mixed audience and identifies which sections apply to each role
Outcome	Certificate of completion with a unique certificate identifier
Version	1.0, issued 18/09/2026, review due 18/09/2027

Who should enrol

- Registered nurses (RNs) and enrolled nurses (ENs) in acute, subacute, aged, community and peri-operative settings
- Medical practitioners who prescribe - interns, resident medical officers, registrars, consultants and general practitioners
- Internationally qualified nurses (IQNs) and internationally trained doctors preparing for Australian practice, where medicine names, terminology, charts and the legal framework all differ from home
- Student nurses and student enrolled nurses
- Nurse practitioners, midwives and pharmacists will find the framework and the systems content directly applicable, though the programme is not written to their specific scope

What you will cover

Module	Title	Hours
00	Orientation: How This Course Works	0.8
01	Why High-Risk Medicines Are Different	0.8
02	The APINCHS Classification	0.5
03	A - Antimicrobials	0.8
04	P - Potassium and Other Electrolytes	0.8
05	I - Insulin	0.8
06	N - Narcotics (Opioids) and Other Sedatives	0.8
07	C - Chemotherapeutic Agents	0.8
08	H - Heparin and Other Anticoagulants	0.8
09	S - Systems	0.8
10	Scope, Law, Reporting and Human Factors	0.8

How you will learn

1. Watch the narrated module video.
2. Read the Student Learner Guide for that module.
3. Complete the reflective workbook activity.
4. Complete the knowledge check and read the rationales.
5. Move to the next module when the system unlocks it.

What this course is, and is not

SCOPE OF PRACTICE AND CURRENCY

- This programme is professional development. It is not a qualification, it is not a unit of competency from a training package, and it does not of itself authorise any learner to prescribe, dispense, prepare, check or administer any medicine. Every activity described here is performed only within the learner's own scope of practice, after assessment of competence, and in line with the policy of the organisation the learner works for. THIS COURSE NAMES NO DOSES. It names medicines, because the classification does, but every dose, concentration, diluent, rate and monitoring interval must be taken from the current prescription, the Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook, Therapeutic Guidelines, the approved product information and local policy - never from a course, and never from memory. Two narrow exceptions appear and are deliberate: a product concentration quoted to identify WHICH preparation is restricted, and a number inside a deliberately defective order used to teach recognition of an error-prone abbreviation. Neither is an instruction to give anything.
- Regulatory and clinical currency: this content was written against the ACSQHC APINCHS classification of high risk medicines (page last updated 30 April 2026), the ACSQHC Recommendations for safe use of medicines terminology (November 2024), the NSQHS Standards (2nd edition) Medication Safety Standard, and the NMBA standards and enrolled nurse medicines fact sheet as published at 18/09/2026. Four things are local, not national, and this course will not answer them for you: your organisation's high-risk medicines list, whether ward dilution of

concentrated electrolytes is permitted where you work, who may act as a second checker, and the poisons and controlled substances law of your state or territory. Confirm each of those against your own policy before you act.