



Exemplar-Based Learning in Nursing

Exemplars are disease processes that fall under a larger umbrella concept. For example, pneumonia, cystitis, and pyelonephritis are all pathologies that exemplify the concept of infection. One of the easiest ways to study exemplars are by making exemplar sheets. Make sure to focus on how the exemplar relates to the overall concept.

What Should I Include on an Exemplar Sheet?

- Risk factors for the disease
- Brief summary of the pathology
- Signs and Symptoms- make sure to highlight symptoms that differentiate each exemplar from similar ones
- Diagnostics/Lab Work
- Nursing Interventions
- Treatments- Meds, Procedures (include any major side effects or safety concerns)
- Complications
- Teaching Points for the Patient

*** Note: Not every exemplar will have all of these components, and not all components are taught in every class (each semester builds on the previous information).

How Should I Use an Exemplar Sheet to Study?

- DO NOT simply memorize the information.
- On the test you are going to be asked to apply the information to a patient scenario.
- Get with a classmate and practice making up clinical questions that require you to apply the information.
- Focus on what makes each exemplar different using compare and contrast.
- Mind map the information to help your brain make connections

For more information on exemplar-based learning in nursing, make an appointment with a [content tutor](#). Appointments are available in person at the [Student Success Center](#) or online.