

## **Adult – Advanced Physical Assessment**

**Course Description:** This module offers a comprehensive guide to performing advanced physical assessments in critical-care settings. It describes the fundamentals of advanced physical assessments, including neurological, respiratory, cardiac, abdominal, and extremity assessments, and the methods used to distinguish normal from abnormal findings. Modes of ventilation, principals of hemodynamic monitoring, potential effects of medications, and special considerations are also covered. The Advanced Physical Assessment module will boost knowledge and confidence in treating critical-care patients, and is a great orientation tool for nurses who want to pursue careers in critical-care or emergency nursing.

### **Course Objectives:**

- Explain the fundamentals of rapid cardiopulmonary assessment and rapid end organ perfusion
- Explain methods used to distinguish normal from abnormal findings, in neurological, respiratory, cardiac, abdominal, and extremity assessments
- Discuss documentation tips for advanced physical assessments
- Describe gas exchange in relation to ABG interpretation
- Discuss how preload, afterload, and cardiac output are affected in clinical stages of shock
- Compare and contrast the types of shock
- Define the three stages of shock and their effects on the body
- Differentiate between SIRS and MODS
- Discuss post-operative assessment of incisions
- Compare and contrast JP, Hemovac, Penrose, NG, and Salem Sump drains, and present related troubleshooting tips
- Briefly discuss common medical problems and assessment considerations for critically ill medical/surgical patients
- Explain the principles and implications of modes of ventilation
- Discuss ventilator alarms and present troubleshooting tips for each
- Explain the principles of hemodynamic monitoring, the indications for each, and related troubleshooting tips