Rationale of Module
Henderson et al. (2009) stated that well developed nursing knowledge has the power to improve the quality of patient care that patients receive. The intensive care nurse is challenged to attain requisite competencies to deliver high quality care to patients with complex needs. Contributing to this is an aging population who tend to have a more multisystem involvement in dysfunction. This can have higher costs, longer stays and more intense nursing care. Critical care nurses are expected to evaluate outcomes associated with practice in an environment where therapeutic specificity is important and timing of treatment essential as delays can increase the risks of multi organ failure. Advances in technology that assist in care is growing at a rapid pace and nurses must become comfortable with the application of technologies tailoring care to individual needs. Technology must be balanced with caring and compassion.

Module Aims
This module builds on module I & II and aims to provide the student with the advanced knowledge, skills and attitudes to achieve proficiency in the management of critically ill patients within the intensive care setting. This module is grounded in a body of excellence and aims to advance the students understanding of the theory which underpins practice by critically exploring and evaluating the biological, sociological and ethical issues pertaining to the intensive care setting.

Learning Outcomes
On successful completion of this module, the student will be able to:

- Critically discuss, evaluate and demonstrate the management of patients who require advanced cardiac life support.
- Critically evaluate the inter facility and inter / intra hospital transportation of critically ill patients.
- Critically discuss and demonstrate the management of complex patients with multiple organ failure.
- Critically analyse and evaluate nursing practice and nursing interventions within the intensive care unit and identify areas for practice development in the provision of safer better care.
- Critically discuss with intensive care practice.
- Critically discuss and demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the complex nursing, medical issues associated with treatment withdrawal and the ethical and legal issues.

Indicative Syllabus
- Transportation of critically ill patient
• Critically ill paediatric patient
• Older patient in intensive care unit
• Complex unstable patient
• Cardiac dysfunction and Patient who requires cardiac interventions
• Patient with renal dysfunction
• Patient following drug overdose and poisoning
• Patient with gastrointestinal dysfunction
• Patient with infectious diseases.

### Teaching Learning Activities

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Hours</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contact time (face to face, online tuition, discussion forum, group work, PBL)</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Independent Learning</td>
<td>124</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assessment preparation</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>250</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examination/Assessment Method</th>
<th>Type of Assessment (Continuous/Terminal)</th>
<th>Weighting</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Presentation at Nursing Symposium (oral or poster)</td>
<td>Terminal</td>
<td>20%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Clinical Practice Improvement Project</td>
<td>Continuous</td>
<td>80%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Indicative Reading


**Recommended Journals**
- American Journal of Critical Care
- British Journal of Cardiac Nursing
- Critical Care Medicine
- Critical Care Nurse
- Critical Care Nursing Clinics of North America
- Critical Care Nursing Quarterly
- Dimensions of Critical Care Nursing
- Evidence Based Nursing
- Heart and Lung
- Intensive & Critical Care Nursing
- Journal of Advanced Nursing
- Journal of Clinical Nursing
- Journal of Infection Control nursing
- Nursing in Critical Care
- Nursing Ethics
- Nursing Older People
- Professional Nurse

**Recommended Wed-sites**
- [www.nice.org.uk](http://www.nice.org.uk)
- [www.survivesepsis.org](http://www.survivesepsis.org)
- [www.ino.ie](http://www.ino.ie)
- [www.nursingboard.ie](http://www.nursingboard.ie)
- [www.ecglibrary.com](http://www.ecglibrary.com)
- [www.mdchoice.com/xray/ctscan/ct](http://www.mdchoice.com/xray/ctscan/ct)
- [www.mdchoice.com](http://www.mdchoice.com)
- [www.irishheart.ie](http://www.irishheart.ie)
- [www.trauma.org](http://www.trauma.org)
- [www.brit](http://www.brit)

Additional reading material will be provided by individual lecturers

**Date of Last Revision: April 2014**