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Practice Questions

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1. A newly hired janitorial staff member reports to the charge nurse feeling nauseated, dizzy, and having difficulty breathing. The staff member mentions that they have been using a new cleaning agent. What do you suspect is causing these symptoms and how should they be treated?

- A. Heat exhaustion from wearing heavy protective clothing in a warm environment; have them sit down in a cool area and provide water.
- B. Hypoglycemia after skipping meals during their shift; provide a sugary snack and monitor.
- C. Carbon monoxide poisoning from poor ventilation in the cleaning closet; take them outside and allow them to breathe fresh air.
- D. Inhalation of toxic cleaning chemicals; call for emergency services, move the staff member to fresh air, provide respiratory support, and monitor vital signs.

2. Which ethical principle involves respecting a patient's right to make their own decisions?

- A. Beneficence
- B. Justice
- C. Autonomy
- D. Nonmaleficence

3. The HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act) was enacted to protect patient privacy and secure sensitive health information. Which organization is responsible for enforcing HIPAA compliance?

- A. The Food and Drug Administration (FDA)
- B. The Office for Civil Rights (OCR)
- C. The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
- D. The Federal Trade Commission (FTC)

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4. These are all correct ways of handling reusable surgical scissors except which one?

- A. Leaving the blades closed during cleaning and sterilization to protect the cutting edges
- B. Using a cleaning solution approved for surgical instruments during the washing process
- C. Testing the scissors for proper function by cutting sterile material before surgery
- D. Using a sterile cloth to wipe the blades before handing them to the surgeon

5. Why is it critical to calibrate an infusion pump before starting a continuous medication infusion?

- A. To verify that the tubing is compatible with the infusion pump
- B. To ensure the medication is mixed properly within the infusion bag
- C. To ensure accurate delivery of the prescribed medication dose and prevent over- or under-infusion
- D. To ensure the infusion pump's battery is fully charged

6. As per the recommendations of the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), which type of sterilization method is recommended for reusable medical instruments that have been exposed to prion contamination?

- A. Steam sterilization
- B. Ethylene oxide sterilization
- C. Hydrogen peroxide gas plasma sterilization
- D. Dry heat sterilization

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7. A pharmacy technician accidentally spills a small amount of hazardous medication onto their skin while preparing an IV admixture. What should they do first?

- A. Report the incident to a supervisor
- B. Check the drug safety data sheet immediately
- C. Continue preparing the IV admixture
- D. Wash the affected area with soap and water



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8. In a dental clinic, sterilization rooms often contain autoclaves for sterilizing instruments. To ensure patient safety, the autoclave should not exceed a maximum operating temperature. What is the ideal maximum temperature setting for these autoclaves to ensure effective sterilization without compromising the integrity of the instruments?

- A. 250°F (121°C)
- B. 200°F (93°C)
- C. 270°F (132°C)
- D. 300°F (149°C)

9. Which of these is a known barrier to effective communication between healthcare providers and patients?

- A. Employing open-ended questions to gather detailed patient histories
- B. Using complex medical terminology without explanations
- C. Providing healthcare information at a 5th grade reading level
- D. Utilizing a professional interpreter for patients with limited English proficiency

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10. What is the process called when patient information is accurately communicated during a shift change to ensure ongoing patient safety and care?

- A. Information continuity
- B. Patient relay
- C. Data transmission
- D. Handoff communication

11. A patient who practices Islam is scheduled for a knee replacement surgery at an outpatient clinic. She will be discharged the same day. What preoperative consideration would you possibly expect as this patient's nurse?

- A. The patient may request modifications for prayer times and needs a specific area for prayer
- B. The patient prefers a gluten-free diet postoperatively
- C. The patient may refuse anesthesia due to religious beliefs
- D. The patient may request to delay the surgery to observe fasting hours



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12. When transferring a patient to a rehabilitation facility, what is the best method for the nurse to verify that the receiving team understands the patient's care needs and medication schedule?

- A. Provide the receiving team with written documentation and assume they understand it
- B. Ask the receiving team to read the patient's documentation and get back with any questions later
- C. Send the patient with a video explaining the care needs and medication schedule, and ask the receiving team to review it
- D. Have the receiving team verbalize the patient's care needs and medication schedule back to the nurse

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13. A patient is being assessed preoperatively for a laparoscopic cholecystectomy. The patient also has a central venous catheter (CVC) in place for chemotherapy. What will this affect in surgery?

- A. The surgery will need to be delayed until the central venous catheter is removed
- B. The patient's central venous catheter (CVC) will need to be protected to prevent infection
- C. The patient will not be able to undergo general anesthesia
- D. The surgery will need to be performed as an open procedure instead of laparoscopically

14. A patient in the postoperative unit reports feeling very cold and the nurse observes the patient's skin is cold to the touch. The patient's temperature is 35.6°C. What formula is used to convert Celsius to Fahrenheit and what is the temperature in °F?

- A. $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32 = 96.08^{\circ}\text{F}$
- B. $(^{\circ}\text{C} - 32) \times \frac{5}{9} = 96.08^{\circ}\text{F}$
- C. $(^{\circ}\text{C} - 32) \times \frac{3}{8} = 94.85^{\circ}\text{F}$
- D. $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times 32) + 15 = 1143.2^{\circ}\text{F}$

15. When should patient education about postoperative care start?

- A. In the postoperative unit once the patient is recovering
- B. During phase II recovery when the patient is fully conscious and the family is present
- C. During the surgeon's final briefing right before the patient is taken to the OR
- D. As soon as the patient is scheduled for surgery or admitted to pre-op

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16. What impact does chronic alcohol consumption have on the liver?

- A. Chronic alcohol consumption decreases production of bile
- B. Chronic alcohol consumption reduces chances of fatty liver
- C. Chronic alcohol consumption causes cirrhosis
- D. Chronic alcohol consumption improves liver function

17. A patient has just undergone intra-arterial chemotherapy for a liver tumor and is now being transferred to the PACU. The nurse understands that this patient requires which special intervention?

- A. The infusion port site should be carefully monitored for signs of infection
- B. The patient will have orders for a lipid-based IV solution in the PACU
- C. The patient will require extra dietary modifications and a bile drain postoperatively
- D. The patient will require isolated recovery due to risk of contagion

18. What is a potential complication of leaving a patient to sit on a wet surgical drape for an extended period during an ambulatory surgery?

- A. Skin ichthyosis
- B. Epidermolysis bullosa
- C. Skin maceration
- D. Skin mottling

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19. Which of the following is NOT an essential element of preoperative and postoperative patient education for ambulatory orthopedic procedures?

- A. Discussing anesthesia options (including regional techniques) and expectations to minimize opioid use
- B. Teaching wound care and signs/symptoms of surgical site infection to report
- C. Reviewing expected activity limitations and measures to prevent venous thromboembolism after discharge
- D. Routinely using a tourniquet for all orthopedic surgeries to reduce blood loss

20. A physician has prescribed 500 mg of Ciprofloxacin for a patient to prevent infection before a colonoscopy. What would be a potential contraindication for this medication?

- A. The patient is diabetic
- B. The patient takes antihypertensive medications
- C. The patient has a history of tendon rupture
- D. The patient has hypothyroidism



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21. When preparing a diabetic patient (HbA1c over 8%) for surgery, all of these are important interventions except which one?

- A. Ensuring an increased dose of prophylactic antibiotics
- B. Using an increased dose of insulin the morning of surgery without checking blood glucose levels
- C. Monitoring blood glucose levels preoperatively and intraoperatively
- D. Scheduling the surgery early in the morning to avoid prolonged fasting

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22. Which nerve is at risk of damage if the medial aspect of a patient's elbow is compressed during surgery?

- A. The axillary nerve
- B. The ulnar nerve
- C. The radial nerve
- D. The median nerve

23. What is the rationale behind using a specific type of surgical drape to isolate the surgical site during a procedure for a patient with a known infection?

- A. The drape reduces the risk of allergic reactions to surgical instruments.
- B. The drape acts as a barrier to prevent the spread of infectious agents.
- C. The drape helps maintain the patient's body temperature during surgery.
- D. The drape allows for better visualization of the surgical site.

24. A patient undergoing cataract surgery with the preoperative administration of phenylephrine eye drops begins to experience a rapid increase in heart rate, high blood pressure, and a feeling of restlessness. What is the most likely cause of these symptoms?

- A. The phenylephrine
- B. Anxiety
- C. Allergic reaction
- D. Intraocular pressure

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25. A 50-year-old patient is undergoing a minor procedure to remove a suspicious mole on his back. He has had moles removed before, which were all non-cancerous, so he is not particularly worried about this one. The nurse knows which principle about skin lesions and will plan the back table set up and specimen retrieval accordingly?

- A. They are usually benign and there is no cause for concern due to this patient's history
- B. They are usually benign and cancer considerations like maintaining separate instruments for closure and tissue that have not encountered the lesion can be discarded because of the patient's history
- C. The surgeon probably won't send the specimen down for identification since it isn't likely to be cancerous and will just cost the patient more money to have pathology tests run
- D. They are considered cancerous until proven benign; cancer precautions in back table set up should be taken

26. During intraoperative care, ensuring the safety and sterility of the surgical environment is crucial. Which of the following behaviors can increase the risk of surgical site infection (SSI) despite standard precautions?

- A. Utilizing preoperative skin antiseptics on the patient
- B. Ensuring sterile instrument trays are used for procedures
- C. Not changing gloves between different procedures on the same patient
- D. Maintaining proper hand hygiene before and after patient contact

27. The surgeon has requested the use of an ultrasonic scalpel. What does the nurse know about its characteristics?

- A. It is more likely to cause electric shocks to the patient
- B. It causes less thermal damage to surrounding tissues
- C. It requires a high voltage power source
- D. It cannot be used near metal implants

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28. A patient is scheduled for a carpal tunnel release surgery and the surgeon decides to use a regional anesthesia method. What specific equipment is essential for administering a brachial plexus block?

- A. A nerve stimulator
- B. A defibrillator
- C. A surgical microscope
- D. A suction catheter



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29. A patient with atrial fibrillation is undergoing cardioversion at an ambulatory care center. They have a history of heart failure and are currently on multiple medications including a beta-blocker and an anticoagulant. During the cardioversion, the patient becomes confused, develops a rapid heart rate (tachycardia), and experiences shortness of breath. The patient's pulse oximetry is reading 82%. What should the nurse do next and what should they ask the first coworker that responds to prepare?

- A. They should administer a high dose of a beta-blocker and ask the coworker to grab a naloxone injection.
- B. They should sit the patient in an upright position and ask the coworker to prepare atropine for administration.
- C. They should titrate the oxygen and ask the coworker to bring a pulmonary function test kit.
- D. They should administer supplemental oxygen, place the patient in a semi-Fowler's position, and ask the coworker to grab a defibrillator and crash cart while waiting for the physician to arrive.

30. A patient scheduled for a total hip replacement takes metformin twice daily, levothyroxine once daily, aspirin once daily, and a daily multivitamin. Which medication should the nurse expect the anesthesia provider to advise the patient to continue on the morning of surgery?

- A. Aspirin
- B. Multivitamin
- C. Levothyroxine
- D. Metformin



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. D — Inhalation of toxic cleaning chemicals; call for emergency services, move the staff member to fresh air, provide respiratory support, and monitor vital signs.

Correct Answer: Inhalation of toxic cleaning chemicals; call for emergency services, move the staff member to fresh air, provide respiratory support, and monitor vital signs. Many cleaning agents can cause respiratory distress if inhaled. Immediate steps include moving the affected person to fresh air, providing oxygen if available, and monitoring their vital signs while waiting for emergency services. It's critical for janitorial staff to be trained in the proper use of cleaning agents and the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) to avoid such incidents.

2. C — Autonomy

Autonomy refers to the right of patients to make independent decisions about their healthcare. It emphasizes the importance of providing patients with all necessary information to make informed decisions about their treatment.

3. B — The Office for Civil Rights (OCR)

The Office for Civil Rights (OCR) is responsible for enforcing HIPAA compliance.

4. A — Leaving the blades closed during cleaning and sterilization to protect the cutting edges

Leaving the blades closed during cleaning and sterilization can prevent proper sterilization of the scissors' inner surfaces. The sterilant cannot effectively reach all areas, which may result in an incomplete sterilization process. The proper method is to leave the blades open to ensure thorough cleaning and sterilization. The other listed actions are correct methods for handling reusable surgical scissors.

5. C — To ensure accurate delivery of the prescribed medication dose and prevent over- or under-infusion

Calibrating an infusion pump is essential to ensure that the medication is delivered at the correct rate and dosage, preventing potential medication errors such as over- or under-infusion, which could have serious clinical consequences.

6. A — Steam sterilization

Answer: Steam sterilization The FDA recommends steam sterilization for reusable medical instruments that have been exposed to prion contamination. This method is effective in denaturing prion proteins, which can withstand many other forms of sterilization.

7. D — Wash the affected area with soap and water

Answer: Wash the affected area with soap and water The first thing to do after exposure to a hazardous medication is to wash the area with soap and water to remove any contaminants. Following this, the technician should report the incident to a supervisor and follow facility protocols for further medical evaluation and necessary follow-up actions.

8. C — 270°F (132°C)

Answer: 270°F (132°C) Most autoclaves used for sterilizing dental instruments should be set at a temperature



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of 270°F (132°C) to ensure effective sterilization while maintaining the integrity of the instruments. Temperatures higher than this may cause damage to the instruments, while lower temperatures may not be sufficient for sterilization. It's essential to follow the manufacturer's guidelines and facility policies for the proper usage and monitoring of autoclaves.

9. B — Using complex medical terminology without explanations

Answer: Using complex medical terminology without explanations. Healthcare information should be accessible and understandable to patients, typically at a 5th grade reading level. Professional interpreters are essential for patients with limited English proficiency, and open-ended questions help to obtain more comprehensive patient information. Avoiding jargon ensures better patient understanding and communication.

10. D — Handoff communication

Answer: Handoff communication Handoff communication is crucial to maintaining patient safety and continuity of care. Accurate and thorough communication during shift changes helps avoid miscommunication and potential adverse events.

11. A — The patient may request modifications for prayer times and needs a specific area for prayer

Answer: The patient may request modifications for prayer times and needs a specific area for prayer Many Muslims pray five times a day following specific times. As the nurse, you should accommodate the patient's prayer needs by providing a quiet and clean area and adjusting the schedule if necessary. It is important to respect and support the patient's religious practices. Ensuring these modifications are communicated and well-coordinated with the surgical team is vital.

12. D — Have the receiving team verbalize the patient's care needs and medication schedule back to the nurse

Answer: Have the receiving team verbalize the patient's care needs and medication schedule back to the nurse The teach-back method ensures effective communication and understanding, reducing the risk of errors in patient care. Written documents and videos alone are not sufficient for confirming understanding, as they do not provide feedback on what the receiving team has retained. Always verify understanding through verbal communication.

13. B — The patient's central venous catheter (CVC) will need to be protected to prevent infection

Answer: The patient's central venous catheter (CVC) will need to be protected to prevent infection Central venous catheters (CVCs) should be carefully managed during surgery to prevent infection. This typically involves proper site cleaning and covering the CVC during the procedure. The presence of a CVC does not generally preclude the use of general anesthesia or laparoscopic surgical techniques.

14. A — $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32 = 96.08^{\circ}\text{F}$

Answer: $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32 = 96.08^{\circ}\text{F}$ The formula $(^{\circ}\text{C} \times \frac{9}{5}) + 32$ is used to convert Celsius to Fahrenheit, which gives 96.08°F for a temperature of 35.6°C . It is important for nurses to understand this conversion to quickly interpret temperature readings.

15. D — As soon as the patient is scheduled for surgery or admitted to pre-op

The correct answer is as soon as the patient is scheduled for surgery or admitted to pre-op. This timing allows the patient and family to prepare adequately, ensuring necessary supplies and medications are available, arrangements for caregivers are made, and any required modifications to the home environment are completed.



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16. C — Chronic alcohol consumption causes cirrhosis

Answer: Chronic alcohol consumption causes cirrhosis. Chronic alcohol consumption is highly detrimental to the liver. Over time, it leads to inflammation (hepatitis), fatty liver, and eventually cirrhosis, which is the scarring and permanent damage to the liver. This condition severely impairs liver function and can lead to liver failure. Bile production may also be affected, but stating that it 'decreases production of bile' is not the primary impact of alcohol on the liver. Additionally, chronic alcohol consumption does not improve liver function or reduce the chances of developing a fatty liver; rather, it exacerbates these issues.

17. A — The infusion port site should be carefully monitored for signs of infection

Answer: The infusion port site should be carefully monitored for signs of infection. Intra-arterial chemotherapy involves delivering chemotherapy directly into the liver's blood supply via an infusion port. This requires diligent monitoring for signs of infection or complications at the port site. Ensuring proper care at the infusion site is crucial to prevent infections and other complications.

18. C — Skin maceration

Answer: Skin maceration When a patient is left on a wet surgical drape, the accumulated moisture can lead to skin maceration. This condition arises because prolonged exposure to moisture weakens the cell walls of skin cells, altering the pH of the epidermis. This excessive saturation causes the connective tissue of the epidermis to dissolve and become highly susceptible to tearing. The breakdown of the epidermis then exposes the dermis to further injury risks from pressure, shear forces, and chemical exposure.

19. D — Routinely using a tourniquet for all orthopedic surgeries to reduce blood loss

Answer: Routinely using a tourniquet for all orthopedic surgeries to reduce blood loss Rationale: Patient education for ambulatory orthopedic procedures should include discussion of anesthesia options and expectations (including regional techniques when appropriate to reduce opioid needs), wound care and signs of infection to report, and activity limitations and measures to reduce risk of venous thromboembolism. The routine use of a tourniquet is an intraoperative clinical decision and not a standard component of patient education for ambulatory care; its use varies by procedure and surgical team.

20. C — The patient has a history of tendon rupture

Answer: The patient has a history of tendon rupture Ciprofloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic often used in preoperative care to prevent infections. However, it is contraindicated in patients who have a history of tendon rupture or tendinitis, a condition that can be exacerbated by this class of drugs.

21. B — Using an increased dose of insulin the morning of surgery without checking blood glucose levels

Answer: Using an increased dose of insulin the morning of surgery without checking blood glucose levels Diabetic patients undergoing surgery require careful management to avoid complications such as hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia, and infections. Key interventions include monitoring blood glucose levels, scheduling surgery early to minimize fasting, and ensuring appropriate doses of prophylactic antibiotics to prevent infections. Administering an increased dose of insulin without checking blood glucose levels can lead to dangerous hypoglycemia or hyperglycemia.

22. B — The ulnar nerve

Answer: The ulnar nerve The ulnar nerve runs along the medial side of the elbow and is easily compressed during procedures if proper padding is not used. The radial nerve is located on the lateral aspect of the elbow, making it less likely to be affected by medial compression. The median nerve runs through the anterior region



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of the elbow, and the axillary nerve is located in the shoulder region.

23. B — The drape acts as a barrier to prevent the spread of infectious agents.

Answer: The drape acts as a barrier to prevent the spread of infectious agents. Special surgical drapes are designed to isolate the surgical site and contain the infection, reducing the risk of contaminating other areas or personnel during the procedure.

24. A — The phenylephrine

Answer: The phenylephrine. Phenylephrine is a vasoconstrictor and can cause significant cardiovascular stimulation, resulting in increased heart rate, hypertension, and feelings of restlessness. Its primary use in cataract surgery is to dilate the pupil, but these side effects should be closely monitored.

25. D — They are considered cancerous until proven benign; cancer precautions in back table set up should be taken

Answer: They are considered cancerous until proven benign; cancer precautions in back table set up should be taken. Every skin lesion is considered cancerous until proven otherwise, no matter the patient's history. All precautions should be taken while removing the lesion so that no cancerous cells are spread in the case that it does come back as a malignancy. Surgeons should always send specimens down if there is any risk of malignancy, despite the cost of pathology tests.

26. C — Not changing gloves between different procedures on the same patient

Not changing gloves between different procedures on the same patient increases the risk of cross-contamination and the potential spread of pathogens, leading to surgical site infections (SSI). Proper hand hygiene, preoperative skin antisepsis, and using sterile instrument trays are standard measures to minimize infection risk.

27. B — It causes less thermal damage to surrounding tissues

Answer: It causes less thermal damage to surrounding tissues. An ultrasonic scalpel utilizes high-frequency sound waves to cut and coagulate tissues simultaneously. It operates at a lower temperature than traditional electro-surgical devices, which makes it less likely to cause thermal damage to the surrounding tissues.

28. A — A nerve stimulator

Answer: A nerve stimulator. A brachial plexus block is a type of regional anesthesia used during upper limb surgeries. The nerve stimulator helps identify the precise location of the nerve bundle for accurate anesthetic delivery. Unlike general anesthesia, regional anesthesia allows the patient to remain awake during the procedure, with only the targeted area being numb. It is crucial to monitor the patient for any complications, especially during the administration and initial effects of the anesthetic.

29. D — They should administer supplemental oxygen, place the patient in a semi-Fowler's position, and ask the coworker to grab a defibrillator and crash cart while waiting for the physician to arrive.

In this case, the rapid onset of symptoms suggests a potential arrhythmia or worsening heart failure. Administering supplemental oxygen and placing the patient in a semi-Fowler's position can help alleviate dyspnea and improve oxygenation. Preparation of the defibrillator and crash cart is crucial for potential emergency interventions such as defibrillation or advanced cardiac life support. It is essential to wait for the physician for further assessment and intervention.

30. C — Levothyroxine

Answer: Levothyroxine. Patients on levothyroxine for hypothyroidism are generally advised to continue their



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thyroid medication on the morning of surgery to maintain thyroid hormone levels; a small sip of water to take the pill is usually allowed despite NPO status. Metformin is typically held before surgery because of the risk of lactic acidosis, and aspirin is often held because of its antiplatelet effects that increase bleeding risk. A multivitamin is not routinely necessary preoperatively.



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