



Medication Aide

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Practice Questions

Try all 30 first, then check the answer key at the back.

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1. Before giving any medication, a medication aide must confirm the resident's identity. Which method is most reliable?

- A. Asking another resident to point the person out
- B. Checking two identifiers, such as name and date of birth
- C. Recognizing the resident by their room number
- D. Calling the resident's first name and waiting for a nod

2. Sublingual administration means the medication is placed:

- A. On top of the tongue and swallowed
- B. Under the tongue to dissolve
- C. In the cheek pocket only
- D. Into the ear canal

3. Acetaminophen is primarily used to:

- A. Lower blood sugar
- B. Relieve pain and reduce fever
- C. Thin the blood
- D. Treat infection

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4. A 'side effect' of a medication is best described as:

- A. The intended healing action
- B. An unintended effect that occurs along with the desired effect
- C. A printing error on the label
- D. The cost of the drug



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5. The MAR (Medication Administration Record) is used to:

- A. List the facility menu
- B. Record each medication given, refused, or held
- C. Track visitor sign-in
- D. Schedule staff breaks

6. The abbreviation 'BID' means:

- A. Once a day
- B. Twice a day
- C. Three times a day
- D. Every hour

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7. If a medication aide realizes they gave the wrong medication, the first priority is to:

- A. Hide the mistake
- B. Check the resident's condition and notify the nurse immediately
- C. Wait until the next shift
- D. Re-give the correct drug without telling anyone

8. A blood-pressure reading of 118/76 mmHg in an adult is generally considered:

- A. Dangerously high
- B. Within a normal range
- C. Too low to act on
- D. An error

9. The traditional list of medication 'rights' always includes which core five?

- A. Right patient, drug, dose, route, and time
- B. Right pharmacy, label, color, shape, and size
- C. Right nurse, aide, chart, pen, and shift
- D. Right diagnosis, allergy, weight, vein, and angle

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10. A transdermal patch delivers medication by:

- A. Being swallowed whole
- B. Being chewed before use
- C. Absorption through the skin over time
- D. Dissolving under the tongue

11. Antibiotics are used to treat:

- A. High blood pressure
- B. Depression
- C. Bacterial infections
- D. Seizures

12. Which signs together most suggest a serious allergic reaction requiring emergency help?

- A. Mild thirst and yawning
- B. Slight boredom
- C. Hives, swelling of the lips or throat, and difficulty breathing
- D. A single sneeze

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13. Medications should be documented:

- A. Immediately after they are given
- B. At the end of the week
- C. Before they are poured
- D. Only if a problem occurs

14. The abbreviation 'TID' means:

- A. Twice a day
- B. Once a day
- C. Three times a day
- D. At bedtime



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15. The single most important action to prevent spreading infection during a medication pass is:

- A. Hand hygiene before and after resident contact
- B. Wearing a mask only
- C. Talking quietly
- D. Using a fast cart

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16. A normal resting adult heart rate typically falls in which range?

- A. 60 to 100 beats per minute
- B. 20 to 40 beats per minute
- C. 120 to 160 beats per minute
- D. Below 30 beats per minute

17. An order reads 'give 10 mg,' but the available tablet is 5 mg. To honor the right dose, the aide should:

- A. Give one 5 mg tablet and chart 10 mg
- B. Crush the tablet to make it dissolve faster
- C. Give two 5 mg tablets to total 10 mg
- D. Hold the dose until a 10 mg tablet is stocked

18. When a resident uses a metered-dose inhaler with a spacer, the spacer's main benefit is to:

- A. Help more medication reach the lungs instead of the mouth
- B. Make the canister last longer financially
- C. Replace the need to shake the inhaler
- D. Allow the drug to be swallowed

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19. A medication ending in '-pril' (such as lisinopril) belongs to which class?

- A. ACE inhibitors used for blood pressure
- B. Antibiotics
- C. Antacids
- D. Antihistamines



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20. Grapefruit juice is a concern with certain medications because it can:

- A. Change how some drugs are metabolized and raise their levels
- B. Always cure side effects
- C. Replace water entirely
- D. Neutralize all medications

21. To correct a charting error on a paper MAR, the aide should:

- A. Erase it completely
- B. Cover it with correction fluid
- C. Draw a single line through it, initial, and write the correction
- D. Tear out the page

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22. The abbreviation 'QID' means:

- A. Four times a day
- B. Every other day
- C. Once a day
- D. At bedtime

23. 'High-alert' medications (such as insulin and anticoagulants) are so named because:

- A. They are the most expensive
- B. They expire quickly
- C. Errors with them are more likely to cause serious harm
- D. They taste bad

24. An order says 'hold metoprolol if pulse is below 60.' The pulse is 54. The aide should:

- A. Give the dose anyway
- B. Give half the dose
- C. Hold the dose, document, and notify the nurse
- D. Wait an hour and recheck only

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25. A resident's order specifies an oral tablet, but the resident says she would rather have it crushed in pudding. What governs whether this is allowed?

- A. The aide may always crush at the resident's request
- B. Whether the drug is safe to crush and the route stays oral
- C. Only a pharmacist may ever approve crushing
- D. Crushing changes the route and is never permitted

26. When instilling eye drops, the aide should place the drop into the:

- A. Center of the cornea (the clear part)
- B. Lower conjunctival sac formed by pulling down the lid
- C. Inner corner against the nose
- D. Upper eyelid surface

27. A 'water pill' (diuretic) such as furosemide works by:

- A. Raising blood sugar
- B. Increasing urine output to remove excess fluid
- C. Thickening the blood
- D. Reducing stomach acid

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28. A resident on warfarin is started on a new medication. The main interaction concern the aide watches for is:

- A. Improved appetite
- B. Increased bleeding or bruising
- C. Hair growth
- D. Lower fever

29. When a resident refuses a dose, the aide documents it by:

- A. Marking it as given
- B. Recording it as refused with the time and notifying the nurse
- C. Leaving the box blank
- D. Charting it for the next shift



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30. 'PO' stands for:

- A. Per rectum
- B. Into the vein
- C. Under the skin
- D. By mouth



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Answer Key & Explanations

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1. B — Checking two identifiers, such as name and date of birth

Using two unique identifiers (for example name and date of birth) is the accepted standard for verifying the right person, because room numbers and faces can be mistaken.

2. B — Under the tongue to dissolve

Sublingual means under the tongue, where rich blood vessels absorb the drug quickly; the resident should not chew or swallow it.

3. B — Relieve pain and reduce fever

Acetaminophen is an analgesic and antipyretic; it eases pain and fever but, unlike NSAIDs, has little anti-inflammatory effect.

4. B — An unintended effect that occurs along with the desired effect

A side effect is an unintended response that accompanies the therapeutic effect; some are minor while others require reporting.

5. B — Record each medication given, refused, or held

The MAR is the legal record of medications scheduled and administered; accurate, timely entries prevent missed or duplicate doses.

6. B — Twice a day

BID stands for twice a day; spacing is typically about every 12 hours per the facility schedule.

7. B — Check the resident's condition and notify the nurse immediately

Resident safety comes first: assess the resident and report to the nurse right away so harm can be prevented or treated; the error is then documented.

8. B — Within a normal range

A reading around 118/76 falls within a generally normal adult range; values are interpreted against the resident's baseline and the order's parameters.

9. A — Right patient, drug, dose, route, and time

The classic five rights are patient, drug, dose, route, and time; later versions add documentation, reason, and the resident's right to refuse.

10. C — Absorption through the skin over time

Transdermal patches release medication slowly through the skin for a sustained effect; the old patch must be removed before applying a new one.

11. C — Bacterial infections

Antibiotics target bacterial infections; they do not work against viruses, and finishing the full course helps prevent resistance.



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12. C — Hives, swelling of the lips or throat, and difficulty breathing

Widespread hives with swelling of the lips/throat and trouble breathing point to anaphylaxis, a medical emergency needing immediate response.

13. A — Immediately after they are given

Charting right after administration keeps the record current and prevents another staff member from re-giving a dose that was already taken.

14. C — Three times a day

TID means three times a day; it is commonly scheduled to spread doses across waking hours.

15. A — Hand hygiene before and after resident contact

Proper hand hygiene before and after contact is the most effective way to prevent transmitting infection between residents during the pass.

16. A — 60 to 100 beats per minute

A normal resting adult pulse is about 60 to 100 beats per minute; rates outside this range may need to be reported before certain medications.

17. C — Give two 5 mg tablets to total 10 mg

Two 5 mg tablets equal the ordered 10 mg dose; splitting the order across same-strength tablets is appropriate when no single matching strength exists.

18. A — Help more medication reach the lungs instead of the mouth

A spacer holds the puff so the resident can inhale it slowly, improving lung delivery and reducing the amount deposited in the mouth and throat.

19. A — ACE inhibitors used for blood pressure

The '-pril' suffix marks ACE inhibitors, which lower blood pressure; a dry cough is a recognized side effect of this class.

20. A — Change how some drugs are metabolized and raise their levels

Grapefruit can inhibit an enzyme that breaks down some drugs (like certain statins and calcium channel blockers), raising their blood levels and risk of side effects.

21. C — Draw a single line through it, initial, and write the correction

A single line through the error with initials and the correct entry keeps the original legible, which is the accepted standard for legal records.

22. A — Four times a day

QID means four times a day; it should not be confused with 'QD' (once daily), which is now discouraged because it is error-prone.

23. C — Errors with them are more likely to cause serious harm

High-alert drugs carry a heightened risk of significant harm when used in error, so they often require extra safeguards like independent double-checks.

24. C — Hold the dose, document, and notify the nurse

When the pulse is below the hold parameter, the aide holds the beta-blocker, documents the held dose and reason, and notifies the nurse per the order.



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25. B — Whether the drug is safe to crush and the route stays oral

Crushing keeps the oral route but is only acceptable if the medication is not extended-release or enteric-coated; the aide should verify with a crush list or the nurse/pharmacist.

26. B — Lower conjunctival sac formed by pulling down the lid

Dropping into the lower conjunctival sac avoids touching the sensitive cornea and keeps the drop in place; the tip should not touch the eye.

27. B — Increasing urine output to remove excess fluid

Diuretics increase urine production to reduce fluid overload and lower blood pressure; aides should watch intake/output and signs of dehydration.

28. B — Increased bleeding or bruising

Many drugs interact with warfarin to increase or decrease its effect; new bleeding or bruising is reported because the anticoagulant balance may have shifted.

29. B — Recording it as refused with the time and notifying the nurse

Refusals are charted as refused (not given) with the time and nurse notification so the record is accurate and follow-up can occur.

30. D — By mouth

PO indicates the oral route (by mouth); confirming route abbreviations prevents wrong-route errors.



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