

HFHS Inpatient Nursing Pharmacology Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

- 1. What should patients do if they experience allergic reactions to Penicillins?**
 - A. Take an over-the-counter antihistamine**
 - B. Seek emergency treatment**
 - C. Continue taking the medication**
 - D. Consult a nurse within 48 hours**
- 2. What is a key patient education point for those taking diuretics?**
 - A. Take at bedtime**
 - B. Increase sodium intake**
 - C. Take in the morning**
 - D. Limit fluid intake**
- 3. Which condition is NOT an indication for prescribing quinolones?**
 - A. Chronic bacterial prostatitis**
 - B. Community-acquired pneumonia**
 - C. Chest pain**
 - D. Sinusitis**
- 4. What precaution is advised when taking Peppermint?**
 - A. Avoid if you have asthma**
 - B. Consult with a healthcare provider before use**
 - C. Avoid use if you are pregnant only**
 - D. Take with meals for best effect**
- 5. What is a common adverse reaction associated with ARBs?**
 - A. Dizziness**
 - B. Angioedema**
 - C. Rash**
 - D. Constipation**

- 6. What should patients be advised to do while taking expectorants?**
- A. Limit fluid intake**
 - B. Increase fluid intake**
 - C. Avoid physical activity**
 - D. Take with meals**
- 7. What is a common adverse reaction to codeine when used as an antitussive?**
- A. Drowsiness**
 - B. Increased heart rate**
 - C. Dry mouth**
 - D. Severe headache**
- 8. Which adverse reaction may occur from the use of Saw Palmetto?**
- A. Insomnia**
 - B. Dizziness**
 - C. Increased heart rate**
 - D. Nausea**
- 9. What should patients using antihistamines avoid?**
- A. Eating dairy products**
 - B. Alcohol and other CNS depressants**
 - C. High caloric foods**
 - D. Excessive sunlight**
- 10. What is the primary responsibility of a nurse regarding the right drug?**
- A. Administer medication without verification**
 - B. Check against the provider's order for accuracy**
 - C. Assume the drug is correct based on prior knowledge**
 - D. Consult with colleagues before administering**

Answers

SAMPLE

1. B
2. C
3. C
4. B
5. B
6. B
7. A
8. B
9. B
10. B

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Explanations

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1. What should patients do if they experience allergic reactions to Penicillins?

- A. Take an over-the-counter antihistamine**
- B. Seek emergency treatment**
- C. Continue taking the medication**
- D. Consult a nurse within 48 hours**

When a patient experiences an allergic reaction to penicillins, seeking emergency treatment is crucial. Allergic reactions can range from mild to severe, including anaphylaxis, which can be life-threatening. Prompt medical intervention is necessary to manage severe symptoms, such as difficulty breathing, swelling of the face or throat, rapid heartbeat, or a severe rash. Over-the-counter antihistamines may be helpful for mild allergic reactions, but they are not sufficient in the case of a severe allergic response. Continuing to take the medication can exacerbate the reaction and lead to more serious consequences, especially if the allergy is severe. Consulting a nurse within a delayed timeframe, like 48 hours, does not provide the immediate care needed for such reactions, especially when symptoms can escalate rapidly. Therefore, the best course of action is to seek emergency treatment right away.

2. What is a key patient education point for those taking diuretics?

- A. Take at bedtime**
- B. Increase sodium intake**
- C. Take in the morning**
- D. Limit fluid intake**

Taking diuretics in the morning is a crucial patient education point because these medications increase urine production, which can lead to frequent urination. By taking diuretics in the morning, patients can minimize the disruption to their daily activities and sleep patterns, preventing the need to wake up frequently during the night to urinate. This timing helps ensure that the peak diuretic effect occurs while the person is awake and can get to the bathroom easily. In contrast, taking diuretics at bedtime could result in nocturia, which may disrupt the patient's sleep. Additionally, increasing sodium intake would counteract the effect of diuretics, which are often prescribed to help manage fluid retention and hypertension. Limiting fluid intake is not advisable for all patients on diuretics; rather, it can depend on the specific clinical situation and should be directed by healthcare providers.

3. Which condition is NOT an indication for prescribing quinolones?

- A. Chronic bacterial prostatitis**
- B. Community-acquired pneumonia**
- C. Chest pain**
- D. Sinusitis**

Quinolones are a class of antibiotics that are effective against a variety of bacterial infections. Their spectrum of activity makes them suitable for treating several conditions, particularly those caused by susceptible organisms. Chronic bacterial prostatitis, community-acquired pneumonia, and sinusitis are all infections where quinolones may be indicated. Chronic bacterial prostatitis often requires effective antibiotics that can penetrate prostatic tissue, for which quinolones are a good choice due to their pharmacokinetics. In the case of community-acquired pneumonia, quinolones can be effective against both typical and atypical pathogens responsible for this pneumonia. Similarly, sinusitis, particularly when caused by bacterial infection, may warrant the use of quinolones if other antibiotics are not suitable or if resistance is a concern. Chest pain, however, is not a specific indication for prescribing quinolones. While chest pain can be associated with a wide range of conditions, including infections that might require antibiotic treatment, the quinolone class is not directly indicated for chest pain itself. Treating chest pain typically involves addressing the underlying cause, which may be cardiac, gastrointestinal, or musculoskeletal in nature, and does not inherently warrant the use of an antibiotic like a quinolone unless there is a clear infectious etiology.

4. What precaution is advised when taking Peppermint?

- A. Avoid if you have asthma**
- B. Consult with a healthcare provider before use**
- C. Avoid use if you are pregnant only**
- D. Take with meals for best effect**

Consulting with a healthcare provider before using peppermint is an important precaution because peppermint can interact with certain medications and may not be suitable for everyone, especially individuals with specific health conditions. This step ensures that the individual receives personalized advice based on their medical history, current medications, and overall health status. Peppermint, while considered generally safe for many, can cause side effects such as heartburn or allergic reactions in some people. By consulting a healthcare provider, users can mitigate risks and ensure that peppermint use is appropriate for their individual circumstances. Other options, while relevant to certain situations, do not encompass the broad precautionary measure that a consultation entails, which is vital for the safety of various patient populations.

5. What is a common adverse reaction associated with ARBs?

- A. Dizziness
- B. Angioedema**
- C. Rash
- D. Constipation

Angioedema is a known and serious adverse reaction associated with angiotensin II receptor blockers (ARBs). ARBs, such as losartan and valsartan, are primarily used to treat hypertension and heart failure by blocking the action of angiotensin II, a hormone that constricts blood vessels. While they are generally well-tolerated, a small subset of patients may develop angioedema, which is characterized by swelling of the deeper layers of the skin and mucous membranes, particularly in the face, lips, throat, and sometimes the gastrointestinal tract. This reaction is primarily of concern because it can lead to airway compromise if the swelling occurs in the throat. Due to this potential for serious complications, monitoring for signs of angioedema is essential when patients are initiated on ARB therapy. In contrast, the other options, while they may occur with other medications or conditions, are not the hallmark adverse effects associated with ARBs. Dizziness, rash, and constipation can occur with various medications but are not specifically linked to the use of ARBs in the context of serious adverse effects.

6. What should patients be advised to do while taking expectorants?

- A. Limit fluid intake
- B. Increase fluid intake**
- C. Avoid physical activity
- D. Take with meals

Increasing fluid intake is essential for patients taking expectorants because these medications work by thinning and loosening mucus in the airways. Adequate hydration helps to facilitate this process, making it easier to cough up mucus and clear respiratory passages. When patients consume more fluids, it enhances the mucus's viscosity, effectively improving the expectorant's efficacy. Furthermore, staying well-hydrated not only supports the action of the expectorant but also helps to reduce the risk of potential side effects, such as dry mouth and throat irritation. It's important for patients to understand that adequate fluid intake will maximize the therapeutic benefits of the expectorant, aiding in their recovery from respiratory conditions.

7. What is a common adverse reaction to codeine when used as an antitussive?

A. Drowsiness

B. Increased heart rate

C. Dry mouth

D. Severe headache

Drowsiness is a common adverse reaction associated with codeine when used as an antitussive. Codeine is an opioid that acts on the central nervous system to suppress the cough reflex. One of the primary effects of many opioids, including codeine, is sedation due to their influence on brain function and neurotransmitter activity. This sedative effect can lead patients to experience drowsiness or fatigue, making this a noteworthy side effect when prescribing codeine for cough relief. The central nervous system depressant effects of codeine can also interfere with a patient's ability to perform tasks that require alertness, such as driving or operating machinery. This consideration is essential for healthcare providers when advising patients on potential side effects and the safety of their activities while taking codeine. Other possible adverse reactions to consider include gastrointestinal disturbances and respiratory depression, but drowsiness is particularly salient due to its impact on daily functioning.

8. Which adverse reaction may occur from the use of Saw Palmetto?

A. Insomnia

B. Dizziness

C. Increased heart rate

D. Nausea

Dizziness is recognized as a potential adverse reaction associated with the use of Saw Palmetto. Saw Palmetto, commonly used for benign prostatic hyperplasia and other health purposes, can influence bodily functions and lead to various side effects. Dizziness may be attributed to its effects on the central nervous system or vascular system, where blood pressure changes and interactions with other medications could contribute to feelings of lightheadedness or imbalance. While other reactions like insomnia, increased heart rate, and nausea can occur with different herbal supplements or medications, they are not commonly reported specifically with Saw Palmetto. Therefore, recognizing dizziness as an adverse reaction helps in monitoring patients who are using this supplement, ensuring they remain safe and informed about the potential effects on their health.

9. What should patients using antihistamines avoid?

- A. Eating dairy products
- B. Alcohol and other CNS depressants**
- C. High caloric foods
- D. Excessive sunlight

Patients using antihistamines should avoid alcohol and other central nervous system (CNS) depressants because these substances can enhance the sedative effects of antihistamines. Many antihistamines, especially first-generation types, can cause drowsiness and sedation as side effects. When taken with alcohol or other sedatives, the risk of excessive sedation, respiratory depression, and impaired cognitive and motor functions increases significantly. This makes it crucial for patients to be aware of the potential risks associated with combining these substances. The other options, while they may have specific considerations, do not pose a direct and significant risk similar to that presented by the combination of antihistamines with alcohol or other CNS depressants. For instance, eating dairy products or consuming high-caloric foods may not have a major impact on the effectiveness of antihistamines, and while excessive sunlight is something to be cautious of in general for skin health, it doesn't interact specifically with antihistamine function like CNS depressants do.

10. What is the primary responsibility of a nurse regarding the right drug?

- A. Administer medication without verification
- B. Check against the provider's order for accuracy**
- C. Assume the drug is correct based on prior knowledge
- D. Consult with colleagues before administering

The primary responsibility of a nurse regarding the right drug is to check against the provider's order for accuracy. This essential step ensures that the medication being administered matches the prescribed treatment plan, minimizing the risk of medication errors. Verifying the accuracy of the order involves checking details such as the drug name, dosage, route of administration, and timing, which are crucial for patient safety and therapeutic effectiveness. By confirming that everything aligns with the provider's instructions, nurses play a vital role in safeguarding patients from potential adverse effects that could arise from incorrect medications or dosages. This practice is part of the "five rights" of medication administration, which emphasizes giving the right drug at the right dose, to the right patient, via the right route, and at the right time. This meticulous approach fosters a culture of safety and accountability within healthcare settings.