

Medical Surgical * Screen List

1. A patient is seen in the Emergency Department for chest pain. Aspirin is ordered. It is important that the aspirin you administer be in which form?

1. Enteric-coated
2. Non-enteric-coated
3. Sublingual
4. Translingual

2. A patient is complaining of chest pain, may be having a myocardial infarction (MI), and has been given aspirin. Which of the following interventions now takes priority with this patient?

1. Draw venous blood for serum cardiac markers
2. Teach the patient relaxation techniques
3. Administer nasal oxygen
4. Take an ECG

3. A patient had a left cardiac catheterization with angiography. The procedure required catheter insertion at the right femoral artery. After the procedure, pressure is applied at the catheter insertion site to prevent:

1. infection
2. hematoma
3. pain
4. nerve damage

4. In a person without diabetes, glucose levels are maintained within the normal range through the action of two hormones that are secreted by the pancreas. One of the hormones, _____, enables the transport of glucose into cells where it can be used for energy.

1. insulin
2. glucagon
3. vasopressin
4. adrenalin

5. A patient takes insulin lispro (Humalog). Insulin lispro (Humalog) is a/an:

1. short-acting insulin
2. intermediate-acting insulin
3. long-acting insulin

6. You read in a patient's chart that her blood glucose was 650 mg/dL when she was admitted to the Emergency Department (ED) in diabetic ketoacidosis. She received insulin in the ED to reduce her blood glucose level. The patient required and received:

1. NPH insulin subcutaneously
2. NPH insulin intravenously
3. Regular insulin subcutaneously
4. Regular insulin intravenously

7. A patient's blood glucose is 260 mg/dL. This reading indicates that the patient is:

1. hypoglycemic
2. hyperglycemic

8. A patient with type 1 diabetes who takes insulin has a blood glucose of 55 mg/dL. The patient is coherent and can swallow. She needs to consume _____ to quickly raise blood glucose level.

1. simple carbohydrates
2. complex carbohydrates

9. If a person with severe hypoglycemia is not able to swallow and consume carbohydrates, drugs may be given to increase blood sugar. Which two (2) drugs should be available for treatment of hypoglycemia?

1. Glucagon
2. 50% dextrose
3. NPH insulin
4. Regular insulin

10. In general, which of the following is inherently more dangerous and life-threatening?

1. Hypoglycemia
2. Hyperglycemia

11. In the event of an allergic reaction after left cardiac catheterization with angiography, which of the following would be ordered and should be readily available?

1. Sodium bicarbonate
2. Calcium gluconate
3. 50% dextrose
4. Benadryl (diphenhydramine)

12. Prior to administering Lanoxin (digoxin) to a patient, you check her _____ pulse.

13. An adult patient's apical pulse rate is determined using the physical assessment technique called _____.

1. inspection
2. palpation
3. auscultation
4. percussion

14. When administering eye drops, the drops are correctly instilled:

1. in the nasolacrimal duct
2. in the lower conjunctival sac
3. over the pupil
4. directly onto the eyeball

15. To confirm a patient's ability to administer eye drops, which of the following approaches is best?

1. Give the patient a written test on administering eye drops
2. Ask the patient to describe the technique for administering eye drops
3. Observe the patient as he administers his eye drops himself
4. Have the patient comment about your technique for administering eye drops as he observes

16. A patient has pain associated with a peptic ulcer. You ask the patient to describe his pain in more detail. Which of the following descriptions is consistent with ulcer disease?

1. Burning epigastric pain
2. Heavy substernal pain
3. Dull suprapubic pain
4. Sharp lower right quadrant pain

17. A patient has bleeding associated with peptic ulcer disease. A nasogastric (NG) tube is inserted and attached to

low suction. Gastric lavage may be needed. Which of the following should be available for gastric lavage?

1. Iced saline
2. Room-temperature saline

18. A patient's nasogastric (NG) tube is a vented (double lumen) NG tube, attached to suction. You notice that gastric contents are leaking from the air vent (pigtail) port. You should:

1. notify the physician
2. instill air into the air vent
3. tie off the air vent outlet

19. A patient has peptic ulcer disease and will have an upper GI endoscopy. You discuss the procedure with the patient. Which of the following descriptions of the procedure is accurate?

1. "Secretions will be removed from your NG tube at various times and then analyzed for the amount of acid."
2. "A tube will be passed through your mouth and advanced into your stomach and the upper intestines."
3. "You will drink a white liquid, after which x-rays will be taken."
4. "You will be given a dye by vein, after which x-rays will be taken."

20. A patient has colon cancer, and may experience bowel obstruction. Which of the following occur with large-bowel obstruction?

1. Pallor
2. Abdominal pain/Abdominal distention
3. Ascites
4. Vomiting

21. A patient with colon cancer has a colon resection. Which of the following do you expect to find with your postoperative physical assessment of the patient a few hours after surgery?

1. Absence of bowel sounds with auscultation of the abdomen
2. Coarse crackles with auscultation of the lungs
3. Calf swelling and tenderness with palpation of the legs
4. Hyperperistalsis with auscultation of the abdomen

22. A patient with colon cancer had a colon resection. The day after surgery, the patient develops a fever of 39.2 degrees C (102.6 degrees F). Which of the following nursing actions is indicated?

1. Administer acetaminophen 650 mg by mouth
2. Report this finding to the physician
3. Reassure the patient that fever is expected
4. Obtain a culture of any wound drainage

23. Which of the following opioid drugs is preferred for relief of severe pain in patients with acute pancreatitis?

1. Meperidine (Demerol)
2. Ranitidine (Zantac)
3. Acetaminophen (Tylenol)
4. Aspirin
5. Morphine

24. A patient had acute pancreatitis and was treated in the hospital. She has a history of long-term alcohol abuse. With discharge from the hospital, the patient indicates a desire to stop drinking. You appropriately refer the patient to:

1. American Cancer Society
2. Reach to Recovery

3. National Foundation of Infectious Diseases
4. Alcoholics Anonymous

25. A patient with benign prostatic hyperplasia (BPH) will have a transurethral resection of the prostate (TURP). Pre-admission blood testing included: red blood cell count (RBC), platelet count, hemoglobin (Hgb) and hematocrit (Hct), prothrombin time (PT), and activated partial thromboplastin time (APTT). These blood tests were done because of the risk for _____ early in the postoperative period after TURP.

1. infection
2. bleeding
3. thrombosis

26. A patient has renal colic. An intravenous pyelogram (IVP) is scheduled. You determine that the patient is knowledgeable about this procedure when he tells you it is being done to:

1. dissolve any stones located in the urinary tract
2. visualize and locate any stones in the urinary tract
3. physically remove any stones in the urinary tract
4. determine the chemical composition of any stones in the urinary tract

27. In an effort to decrease a female patient's risk for urinary tract infections, which of the following hygiene habits do you recommend?

1. After urination, wipe the perineal area from front to back
2. After defecation, wipe the rectal area from back to front
3. Resist frequent urination
4. Wash hands before using the bathroom

28. A patient with leukemia is anemic and must receive two units of packed red cells. To insure that the patient is properly identified before blood transfusion, which of the following is best?

1. If you know the patient from previous days, there is no need to check his identify
2. Check the patient's identification bracelet, and ask him his name
3. Ask the patient what his blood type is
4. Check the patient's identification bracelet, and ask him his name and birth date

29. A patient has cirrhosis of the liver. She has ascites and will have fluid removed from the peritoneal cavity. This procedure is called _____.

1. thoracentesis
2. paracentesis
3. peritoneal dialysis
4. cholecystitis

30. An elderly patient is admitted to the hospital with right lower lobe pneumonia. You obtain a pulse oximetry reading of 90% on room air. You know that pulse oximetry measures the:

1. partial pressure of oxygen
2. arterial oxygen content
3. arterial oxygen saturation
4. fraction of inspired oxygen

31. A patient may have hepatitis A. Which of the following placed the patient at increased risk for hepatitis A?

1. His cigarette smoking history
2. His employment as a cook
3. His single lifestyle
4. His allergy to penicillin

32. A patient may have hepatitis A. You know that hepatitis A is most commonly transmitted by which of the following routes?
1. Fecal-oral
 2. Blood
 3. Sexual contact
 4. Droplet spread
33. A patient has spinal cord damage from compression secondary to cervical spine fracture. For the first few days after the injury, the patient has a nasogastric (NG) tube for which of the following reasons?
1. He is at risk for constipation
 2. He has paralytic ileus
 3. He is probably unable to swallow
 4. He is at risk for stress ulcers
34. A patient has symptoms of a stroke. When administered IV within _____ hours of the onset of symptoms of stroke, thrombolysis with rtPA is safe and can dissolve a clot, resolve ischemia, and minimize cerebral cell damage associated with stroke.
1. three
 2. six
 3. twelve
 4. twenty-four
35. Aspirin has many therapeutic effects. After ischemic stroke, aspirin is given for which of the following effects?
1. analgesic
 2. antiplatelet
 3. antiinflammatory
 4. antipyretic
36. A patient may have hepatitis B. The incubation period for hepatitis B averages:
1. 4-10 days
 2. 20-40 days
 3. 2-3 months
 4. 6-9 months
37. A patient has had a cholecystectomy. You know that this surgery involves:
1. removal of the gallbladder
 2. removal of stones from the gallbladder
 3. making an opening into the gallbladder
 4. removal of stones from the common bile duct
38. Cholecystectomy is frequently done to treat acute or chronic cholecystitis. Cholecystitis is characterized by:
1. atrophy of the gallbladder
 2. cancer of the gallbladder
 3. inflammation of the gallbladder
 4. stones in the gallbladder
39. Cholecystitis often occurs due to cholelithiasis, the presence of gallstones. Which of the following best describes the mechanism by which this occurs?

1. Gallstones obstruct flow of bile through the hepatic duct, causing inflammation and subsequent atrophy of the gallbladder
2. Gallstones accumulate in the gallbladder, preventing bile production and storage, subsequently resulting in inflammation
3. Gallstones obstruct the flow of bile through the cystic duct, causing bile to accumulate in and inflame the gallbladder

40. A patient with osteoarthritis will have a right total hip replacement (arthroplasty). Preventing the complication deep vein thrombosis (DVT) is critical. If DVT develops, a clot or part of a clot can break loose from the site of thrombosis, and travel to the lungs. This potentially-fatal consequence of DVT is called pulmonary

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1. atresia
 2. embolus
 3. distress syndrome

41. A patient fractured his right wrist. A cast is present on the wrist. Fingers of the involved arm are pale but warm, and some mild swelling is noted. Which of the following is indicated?

1. Notify the physician stat
2. Elevate the patient's hand higher than his elbow
3. Maintain the patient's hand level with his elbow
4. Allow the patient's hand to dangle over the side of the bed

42. A patient had a traumatic head injury and concussion. You examine the patient's pupils. You check for pupil reaction to light. In preparing for this, you do which of the following?

1. Place the patient in the Trendelenburg position
2. Dim the lights in the patient's room
3. Increase the lighting in the patient's room
4. Instill fluorescein stain into the conjunctival sac of the patient's right eye
5. Plan to check pupil response to light in the left eye only

43. A patient has had a stroke. She is unable to move her right arm and leg to commands. BP should be taken with a large cuff on the:

1. right arm
2. left arm

44. A patient has had a stroke. The right side of the patient's face is flaccid. The patient is receiving IV fluids and is not yet eating, although the physician has indicated she will start eating today. Which assessment is critical before the patient begins eating?

1. Breath sounds
2. Gag reflex
3. Swallowing ability
4. Weight

45. A patient has peripheral vascular disease (PVD) and a left leg ulcer. Edema is severe in the patient's left ankle. When you touch the ankle to assess the edema, you notice an indentation remains after you remove your fingers. When you chart your findings, you document the presence of _____ edema.

1. subcutaneous
2. subdermal
3. pitting
4. non-pitting

46. A patient has lung cancer. The patient's history includes an important risk factor for lung cancer. This risk factor

is:

1. cigarette smoking
2. large number of children
3. family history of diabetes
4. chronic cough

47. You read in a patient's medical record that he was diagnosed with stage I hypertension, and started on a diuretic. Which of the following defines stage I hypertension?

1. A systolic reading of less than 120 mm Hg, and a diastolic reading of less than 80 mm Hg
2. A systolic reading of 120-139 mm Hg, or a diastolic reading of 80-89 mm Hg
3. A systolic reading of 140-159 mm Hg, or a diastolic reading of 90-99 mm Hg
4. A systolic reading of 160 mm Hg or greater, or a diastolic reading of 100 mm Hg or greater

48. A patient has peripheral arterial disease and decreased blood flow to the legs. Which skin color change suggests pre-gangrene and should be reported immediately?

1. Purple-black
2. Black
3. Bright red
4. Blue

49. A patient with lung cancer had a thoracotomy with right upper lobectomy and lymph node dissection. For the first 24 hours after surgery, the patient's chest tube drainage is checked hourly. Drainage may be bloody. What would you do if 150 mL of bloody fluid drained in one hour?

1. Document the output and notify the physician when he makes rounds
2. Document the output and notify the physician immediately
3. Document the output and continue to monitor hourly

50. A patient with lung cancer had a thoracotomy with right upper lobectomy and lymph node dissection. A few hours after surgery, you obtain an SpO₂ reading of 98%. Assuming the patient's hemoglobin is normal, an SpO₂ of 98% indicates that:

1. the patient is anemic
2. the patient's oxygenation is normal
3. the patient is bleeding
4. the patient is hypoventilating

51. An elderly patient is in the hospital with right lower lobe pneumonia. His complete blood count (CBC) is abnormal. His _____ count is elevated, secondary to infection.

1. red blood cell
2. platelet
3. white blood cell
4. endorphin

52. A patient has right lower lobe pneumonia. It is probable that oxygenation will be best when he is positioned on his _____ side.

1. left
2. right

53. A patient has right lower lobe pneumonia. The patient is receiving the broad-spectrum anti-infective drug Levaquin (levofloxacin). Based on your knowledge of potential complications of this antibiotic therapy, you will be alert for which of the following adverse effects?

1. Drowsiness

2. Peripheral edema
3. Loose, watery stools

54. A patient has right lower lobe pneumonia. He is complaining of chest soreness when coughing. Understanding the cause of the patient's pain, you instruct him to:

1. hold a pillow across his chest when coughing
2. try to consciously suppress his cough
3. turn his head away when coughing
4. pull on the side rails when coughing

55. A patient hospitalized for right lower lobe pneumonia will be discharged soon. Which of the following two (2) discharge instructions are indicated?

1. Take frequent rest periods as needed
2. Stop antibiotics when feeling better
3. Avoid carbonated drinks
4. Drink lots of fluid each day
5. Remain indoors while on antibiotics

Peak Nursing RN Competency Test

Answer Sheet

1	17	33	49
2	18	34	50
3	19	35	51
4	20	36	52
5	21	37	53
6	22	38	54
7	23	39	55
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16	32	48	

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