

University of Michigan Health System
Educational Services for Nursing

Medication Assessment—RNs and LPNs

1. **When a dosage range is ordered for a prn pain medication, the best action is to:**
 - A. give the same amount as the previous dose
 - B. give the lowest dose possible
 - C. base the dose on the patient's response to the last dose
 - D. decrease the amount slightly with each dose

2. **Respiratory depression is a serious and potentially life threatening side effect of narcotics (opioids). What aspects of nursing care are critical to safe administration of these drugs?**
 - A. through and current respiratory assessment, including rate and depth of respirations as well as understanding the patient's baseline respiratory status
 - B. Awareness of other drugs the patient may currently be taking, such as Valium
 - C. the patient's age
 - D. A & B
 - E. All of the above

3. **A nurse must be knowledgeable of reversal agents that are needed for various drugs. Read the following statements and identify which is completely true.**
 - A. Narcan (Naloxone) reverses Versed, and Flumazenil (Romazicon) reverses Valium
 - B. Narcan (Naloxone) reverses Morphine and Flumazenil (Romazicon) reverses Dilaudid
 - C. Narcan (Naloxone) reverses Morphine and Flumazenil (Romazicon) reverses Versed and Ativan
 - D. Narcan (Naloxone) reverses Ativan and Flumazenil (Romazicon) reverses Versed

4. **Your patient is to receive Methylphenidate (Ritalin) 7.5 mg po BID. Available strengths include: 5 mg. Tablets and 10 mg. Tablets. Which of the following will safely achieve the correct dose, as ordered?**
 - A. $\frac{3}{4}$ of a 10 mg. tablet
 - B. two 5 mg. tablets
 - C. one and one-half 5 mg. tablets
 - D. one 10 mg. tablet

5. **Your patient has a new order: Penicillin 3 million units IVPB. He denies any known allergies. Ten minutes after initiating the penicillin therapy, you find him sitting upright in bed. He is dyspneic and there are white wheals visible on his cheeks. The MOST appropriate action would be:**
- A. give 25 mg. of Benadryl and continue the infusion, staying with the patient
 - B. slow down the infusion and call the physician
 - C. stop the infusion, send for the emergency cart, and administer an amp of Epi.
 - D. stop the infusion, keep an IV open, and call the MD
6. **In an adult cardiac arrest, asystole is detected. Initially the nurse would anticipate the administration of:**
- | | |
|-------------------------|---------------------|
| A. Epinephrine 1:1000 | 0.5 to 1 mg IV push |
| B. Epinephrine 1:10,000 | 5 to 10 mg IV push |
| C. Epinephrine 1:1,000 | 0.5cc IV push |
| D. Epinephrine 1 mg/ml | 30 cc vial, 5cc |
7. **Meperidine (Demerol) use is restricted to the treatment of post-op rigors and patients with documented narcotic allergies. This restriction is to avoid the toxic accumulation of a metabolite that can cause tremors, muscle twitches, and seizures.**
- A. True
 - B. False
8. **Beta blocker drugs such as Inderal and Lopressor are often prescribed for the treatment of hypertension. It is important that the nurse know that beta blockers:**
- A. May cause bronchoconstriction and can exacerbate bronchospastic disease (asthma)
 - B. May cause hypoglycemia in previously controlled diabetic patients
 - C. May cause significant bradycardia as an adverse effect
 - D. All of the above
 - E. A & C
9. **Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) is 10 times more potent than Morphine. Special dosing limitations dictate that a child should not receive more than 15 mcg/kg/dose. The dilaudid is available in 1mg/1cc prefilled syringes. The correct dose for a 29.4 pound child would be:**
- A. 200 mcg = 2 cc
 - B. 441 mcg = 4.4cc
 - C. 200 mcg = 0.2 cc
 - D. 441 mcg = 0.4cc

10. ACE (Angiotensin Converting Enzyme) inhibitors, including Vasotec, Prinivil, and Captopril are often prescribed for hypertension and CHF. Aspects of safe administration would include all of the following except:

- A. anticipate a reduced dose in patients with decreased renal function
- B. monitor the patient for hypotension if they are in any situation that may lead to a decrease in BP secondary to reduction in fluid volume—excessive perspiration and dehydration, vomiting, diarrhea
- C. Advise the patient that he may experience coughing
- D. Always give ACE inhibitors with food
- E. All of the above
- F. A, B, and C

11. Which of the following would provide relevant information to the nurse caring for a patient receiving Digoxin?

- 1. Serum potassium level**
- 2. Apical pulse rate and rhythm**
- 3. Serum Digoxin level**
- 4. Patient complaints of visual disturbances**
- 5. Patient weight**

- A. 1 and 2
- B. 2 only
- C. 1, 2, 3, & 5
- D. 1, 2, 3, 4, & 5

12. You are caring for a 63 year old female patient recovering from surgery. Her PRN orders include:

- **Vicodan (Hydrocodone 5 mg + acetaminophen 500 mg) 1-2 tablets PO, Q 6 hours PRN, pain**
- **Tylenol 650 mg q 4 hours, PRN, fever greater than 101.5**

Knowing that the maximum 24 hour combined dose of acetaminophen should not exceed a total of 4 Grams, you should:

- A. contact the physician immediately and have one of the orders discontinued
- B. allow the patient to experience pain if the 4 Gm limit is reached within the 24 hour period
- C. keep track of the 24 hour cumulative dose of acetaminophen and inform the physician if it nears or may 4 GM
- D. assume the physician and pharmacist are monitoring the acetaminophen dose

13. An order is written for IV Potassium for your patient. Important aspects of IV potassium administration include:

- 1. Serum K⁺ should be verified prior to administration**
- 2. Both concentration and rate of administration are calculated according to strict guidelines**
- 3. IV K⁺ is never given IV push**
- 4. Certain diuretics cause K⁺ loss**

- A. 3 only
- B. 1 and 3
- C. 2 and 4
- D. all of the above

14. An antibiotic with a volume of 50 cc is to be infused over 30 minutes. What rate/hour should be set on the infusion pump?

- A. 25cc/hour
- B. 50cc/hour
- C. 60cc/hour
- D. 100cc/hour

15. Vitamin K decreases the anti-clotting effects of Warfarin (Coumadin). Patients taking Warfarin should be instructed to:

- A. Eliminate most Vitamin K rich foods from their diet
- B. Maintain consistent dietary intake of Vitamin K
- C. Learn which foods are rich in Vitamin K (such as Lettuce, spinach, broccoli, cabbage, cauliflower, and liver)
- D. A and C
- E. B and C

16. It is recommended that patients receiving high doses and/or prolonged courses of aminoglycosides must be monitored carefully for ototoxicity, since initial symptoms may be reversible. A high-pitched tinnitus often is the first symptom of impending difficulty. Therefore patients on which of the following drugs should be monitored for this side effect:

- A. Gentamycin, Tobramycin, and Amikacin
- B. Aztreonam, Augmentin, and Cipro
- C. Penicillin and Ampicillin
- D. Cefazolin, Keflex, and Cefatetin

- 17. Amphotericin B is given to treat certain fungal infections. Appropriate nursing interventions include monitoring for fever, hypotension, rigors, anaphylaxis, and skin reactions.**
- A. True
 - B. False
- 18. Peak insulin levels of insulin vary with the type of insulin. You will watch for signs of hypoglycemia in a patient, who receives intermediate acting insulin (such as NPH) at 8 AM:**
- A. between 10 AM and 12 Noon
 - B. between 4 PM and 8 PM
 - C. between Midnight and 3 AM
 - D. between 4 AM and 8 AM
- 19. Delirium is an acute confusional state in which hallucinations, agitation, insomnia, and anxiety are common. Non-pharmacologic treatment measures include frequent reassurance, environmental cues to reorient the patient, and the judicious use of restraints. Which of the follow are true of the pharmacological treatment of delirium?**
- A. Haldol is the drug most often used to treat the symptoms of delirium
 - B. Haldol should be given in reduced doses to the elderly
 - C. Lorazepam (Ativan) is the benzodiazepine most commonly used to treat delirium secondary to alcohol withdrawal
 - D. A and B
 - E. All of the above
- 20. Your patient is admitted in Diabetic Ketoacidosis. A continuous Insulin infusion is ordered. Which of the following insulin preparations are used?**
- A. Regular
 - B. NPH
 - C. Lente
 - D. 70/30
- 21. When administering eye drops, the correct procedure is to place the medicine in the:**
- A. inner corner of the eye
 - B. outer corner of the eye
 - C. pocket between the eye and lower lid formed by pulling the lower eyelid down
 - D. center of the eyeball

22. Enteric coated medications are designed to be:

- A. Chewed before swallowing
- B. Absorbed in the small intestine
- C. Crushed before being placed through an NG tube
- D. Absorbed in the stomach

23. Zopidem (Ambien) is a sedative drug used to treat insomnia. When giving this medication to the elderly:

- A. The incidence of GI complaints and dizziness are increased, causing an increased risk for falls
- B. The half life of the drug is increased in older patients, so reduced dosages are necessary (5-10 mg. in the elderly, instead of the usual 10-20 mg)
- C. The half life of the drug is decreased in older patients, so the maximum dosage provides the best result
- D. A and B
- E. A and C

24. Sustained release medications should not be chewed or crushed because:

- A. The drug may be released too quickly causing higher than desired blood levels
- B. They are intended to pass through the stomach into the intestine to prevent stomach acid from altering the drug
- C. Be toxic to the patient or the healthcare worker if the particles are exposed to the skin or inhaled.
- D. Should never be crushed and placed in an NG tube.
- E. All of the above

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