CCU Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge in the area of the Coronary Care Unit.

Knowledge Domains - CCU Exam

- Cardiovascular: 40%
- CCU Pharmacology: 22%
- Endocrine: 4%
- General Knowledge: 4%
- Multisystem: 4%
- Neurology: 16%
- Pulmonary: 4%

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I. Cardiovascular

A. Knowledge of ACLS guidelines.
B. Knowledge of principles of Core Measures.
C. Knowledge of hemodynamic monitoring and waveform interpretations.
D. Knowledge of right vs. left ventricular heart failure and hemodynamic correlations.
E. Knowledge of balloon pumps and determination of appropriate timing.
F. Knowledge of identifying characteristics of cardiac arrhythmias.
G. Knowledge of medications and/or treatments indicated for arrhythmias.
H. Knowledge of mechanics of defibrillator, AED, and External Pacemakers.
I. Knowledge of utilizing epicardial wires for cardioversion.
J. Knowledge of complications of cardioversion.
K. Knowledge of permanent and temporary pacemakers.
L. Knowledge of maintenance protocols for different types of pacing.
M. Knowledge of relationship of temporary pacing with hemodynamic monitoring.
N. Knowledge of EKG changes in the MI patient.
O. Knowledge of preload, afterload, and contractility.
P. Knowledge of proper placement of pulmonary artery catheter and how to interpret waveforms.
Q. Knowledge of how to calculate MAP, stroke volume and SVR.
R. Knowledge and recognition of retroperitoneal bleed.
S. Knowledge of pertinent lab values in the MI patient.
T. Knowledge of appropriate phlebotomy techniques.
U. Knowledge of different types of shock including cardiogenic.
V. Knowledge of common diagnostic tests and procedures with pre- and post-care.
W. Knowledge of typical procedures/protocols when recovering patients post procedures.

II. CCU Pharmacology
A. Knowledge of medications used in emergency situations.
B. Knowledge of all ACLS medications including indications and dosages.
C. Knowledge of medications used to effect cardiovascular status such as cardiac output and blood pressure.
D. Knowledge of commonly used medications that will impact preload, afterload, and contractility.
E. Knowledge of thrombolytic agents, including:
   1. Bleeding precautions
   2. Administration criteria
F. Knowledge of principles of conscious sedation:
   1. Medications used
   2. Reversal agents
G. Knowledge of paralytic medications.
H. Knowledge of medications and their effects on patients.
I. Knowledge of IV and drug calculations.
III. Endocrine
   A. Knowledge of Diabetes.
   B. Knowledge of hyperglycemia and hypoglycemia.
   C. Knowledge of effects of insulin and oral anti-diabetic agents.

IV. General Knowledge
   A. Knowledge of nursing interventions for patients with altered nutritional intake.
   B. Knowledge of management and maintenance of multiple IV lines including central lines.
   C. Knowledge of normal and abnormal lab parameters.
   D. Knowledge of blood and blood product administration and adverse reactions.
   E. Knowledge of principles of nasogastric tubes, including placement.

V. Multisystem
   A. Knowledge of Core Measures.
   B. Knowledge of organ donation and procurement procedures.
   C. Knowledge and recognition of different types of shock including septic shock.

VI. Neurology
   A. Knowledge of a comprehensive neurological assessment.
   B. Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the brain and spine.
C. Knowledge of the anatomy and physiology of the brain as it relates to neurological events.

D. Knowledge and management of patient with increased ICP.

VII. Pulmonary

A. Knowledge of ABG interpretation.

B. Knowledge of emergency intubation.

C. Knowledge of mechanical ventilation.

D. Knowledge of ventilator equipment and settings.

E. Knowledge of suction system and equipment.

F. Knowledge of chest tube equipment, set up, and care.