Emergency Department RN Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge of the Registered Nurse in the area of the Emergency Department.

Knowledge Domains - Emergency Department RN

- Cardiovascular
- Critical Thinking
- ED Pharmacology
- Endocrine
- GI/GU/Obstetrical
- Infectious Diseases/Toxicology/Environmental
- Integumentary/Wound/Orthopedic
- Maxillofacial/Nasopharyngeal/Ophthalmic
- Neurological
- Professional Issues
- Psychosocial
- Pulmonary
- Trauma

Each question in this assessment is categorized by a cognitive level that the test taker would likely use to respond. These categories are:

• Recall: The ability to recall or recognize specific information;

• Application: The ability to comprehend, relate or apply knowledge to new or changing situations;

• Analysis: The ability to analyze and synthesize information, determine solutions and/or evaluate the usefulness of a solution.

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I. Cardiovascular
   A. Knowledge of how to perform a comprehensive cardiovascular assessment.
   B. Knowledge of signs, symptoms and treatment protocols for common cardiovascular conditions:
      1. MI, STEMI, Chest pain
      2. CHF
      3. Hypovolemic Shock
      4. Cardiac Tamponade
      5. Pericarditis
      6. Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm
      7. Cardiovascular acute care emergencies
   C. Knowledge of ACLS guidelines.
   D. Knowledge of age appropriate defibrillator pad placement.
   E. Knowledge of defibrillator, AED, and pacemakers.
   F. Knowledge of normal/abnormal lab values.
      1. B-type natriuretic peptide (BNP)
      2. Troponin
      3. Creatine kinase (CK)
      4. Complete blood count (CBC)
      5. Comprehensive metabolic panel (CMP)
      6. Electrolytes
   G. Knowledge of common cardiac medications frequently administered in the ED including contraindications and side effects.
   H. Knowledge of 12 Lead EKG.
      1. Appropriate procedure
      2. Recognition of abnormal findings
      3. Priority interventions for abnormal findings
      4. Common medical conditions that contribute to dysrhythmias
I. Knowledge of triage procedures based upon vital signs, EKG, lab values.

II. Endocrine
   A. Knowledge and recognition of signs and symptoms, diagnosing, and treatments for common medical conditions of the endocrine system:
      1. Diabetes
      2. Diabetic Ketoacidosis
      3. Adrenal Crisis
      4. Pancreatitis
      5. Hypoparathyroidism
      6. Guillain-barre’ syndrome
      7. Hyperosmolar hyperglycemic state

III. ED Pharmacology
   A. Knowledge of appropriate doses and indications for use of various types of IV solutions (i.e. hypertonic, hypotonic, isotonic, etc.).
   B. Knowledge of common medications administered in the Emergency Department.
      1. Heparin
      2. Antibiotics
      3. Fibrinolytic therapy (TPA, alteplase, reteplase, etc.)
      4. Antiarrhythmic medications (Amiodarone, diltiazem, etc.)
      5. Insulin
      6. Anticonvulsants
      7. Topical burn treatment
   C. Knowledge of antidotes/treatments for overdose of common medications.
   D. Knowledge of common medications used for cardiac diagnostic procedures, tests, and treatments:
      1. Chemical Cardioversion
      2. Pulmonary Embolism
3. SVT
4. Hypertensive Crisis

E. Knowledge of common medications to treat infectious diseases.
F. Knowledge of medications for pain management (mild, moderate, and severe pain).
G. Knowledge of medications for the obstetrical patient (RhoGAM, magnesium sulfate, etc.)
H. Knowledge of discharge instructions for commonly prescribed Emergency Department medications.
I. Knowledge of therapeutic INR ranges for anticoagulant medications.
J. Knowledge of reconstituting protocols of common medications administered in the Emergency Department.

IV. GI/GU/Obstetric

A. Knowledge of ACLS protocols for obstetric patients.
B. Knowledge of signs and symptoms and diagnostic findings of various GI/GU/Obstetric conditions:
   1. Cholecystitis
   2. Pancreatitis
   3. Diverticulitis
   4. Renal calculi
   5. Small bowel obstruction
   6. Appendicitis
   7. Ectopic pregnancy
   8. Sexually transmitted diseases
   9. Paraphimosis
   10. Rhabdomylosis

C. Knowledge of medications used to treat various GI/GU/Obstetric conditions.
D. Knowledge of common complications related to GI/GU/Obstetric surgical procedures.
E. Knowledge of common interventions for GI/GU/Obstetric patients.
   1. Urinary catheter
   2. Fetal monitor
F. Knowledge of diagnostic tests performed for GI/GU/Obstetric patients.
   1. Pelvic ultrasound
   2. Abdominal/Pelvic CT
G. Knowledge of protocols/procedures for sexual assault victims.

V. Infectious Diseases/Toxicology/Environmental
A. Knowledge of acute care emergencies involving infectious diseases
   1. SIRS, Sepsis, Septic Shock
   2. C-difficile
   3. MRSA
   4. Tuberculosis
   5. Mononucleosis
B. Knowledge of acute care emergencies involving toxicological exposure
   1. Digitalis Toxicity
   2. Amitriptyline
   3. Drug Overdose
C. Knowledge of acute care emergencies involving environmental exposure:
   1. Hypothermia
   2. Spider bites
   3. Snake bites
   4. Tick-borne diseases
   5. Pesticide exposure
D. Knowledge of Isolation Precautions, PPE, Exposure Protocols
E. Knowledge of patient teaching related to Isolation Precautions

VI. Integumentary/Wound/Orthopedic
A. Knowledge of treatment protocols and interventions for burn patients:

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1. When to refer to a burn center
   a) Percent Total Body Surface Area (TBSA)
   b) Depth of burn injury
   c) Type of burn injury (chemical, electrical, inhalation, etc.)
   d) Age of patient

2. Fluid resuscitation

3. Complications from third degree burns

4. When to initiate a warming system

5. Chemical burns

B. Knowledge of treatment protocols and interventions related to sutures and wound closures.
   1. Gunshot wound
   2. Stab wound
   3. Anterior thoracic cavity wound

C. Knowledge of assessment, signs and symptoms and care of orthopedic injuries:
   1. Dislocations
   2. Fractures, such as Comminuted, Open, Colles’, etc.
   3. Cast care and complications
   4. Compartment Syndrome
   5. Amputations
   6. Herniated Disc

D. Knowledge of common equipment used for orthopedic patients, such as pelvic sheeting/binder, orthopedic splinting, etc.

VII. Maxillofacial, Nasopharyngeal, Ophthalmic

   A. Knowledge of appropriate age-specific suctioning techniques.
   
   B. Knowledge of appropriate protocols for common Maxillofacial, Nasopharyngeal, and Ophthalmic procedures, such as testing visual acuity, slit lamp exam, etc.
C. Knowledge of signs and symptoms, appropriate interventions and patient teaching related to:
   1. Epiglottitis
   2. Skull/facial Fractures
   3. Ruptured Tympanic Membrane
   4. Retinal Detachment
   5. TMJ Disorders
   6. Glaucoma
   7. Peritonsillar Abscess

VIII. Neurological
   A. Knowledge of how to perform a comprehensive neurological assessment.
      1. Glasgow Coma Scale
   B. Knowledge of common medications frequently administered in the patient with a neurological issue, including contraindications and side effects:
      1. TPA
      2. Mannitol
   C. Knowledge of signs and symptoms, risk factors, and treatment interventions of neurologic conditions:
      1. Increased intracranial pressure
      2. Ischemic Stroke
      3. Hemorrhagic Stroke (subarachnoid, intracerebral)
      4. Seizures
      5. Subdural Hematoma
      6. Spinal Cord Injury
      7. Multiple Sclerosis
      8. Dementia
      9. Neuroleptic malignant syndrome
      10. Obstructive hydrocephalus/VP shunt
      11. Meningitis

IX. Professional Issues

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A. Knowledge of legal and ethical considerations in the Emergency Department:
   1. AMA protocols
   2. Knowledge of DNR and Resuscitation Protocols
   3. Medication Waste Protocols
   4. Sexual Assault Protocols
   5. Medical Translator/Interpreter
   6. Patient Rights
      a) Discontinue treatment
      b) Medical Power of Attorney
      c) Restraints
B. Knowledge of components related to delegation to licensed and non-licensed personnel.

X. Psychosocial
A. Knowledge of suicide precautions and interventions.
B. Knowledge of therapeutic communication (verbal and nonverbal) techniques for violent situations.
C. Knowledge of safety protocols for patients and staff.
D. Knowledge of side effects of common psychosocial medications.
   1. Acute dystonic reaction
E. Knowledge of appropriate social services protocols and interventions.
F. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of common psychosocial disorders:
   1. Acute psychosocial disorder
   2. Depressive disorder
   3. Panic attack
   4. Delirium
   5. Mania
   6. Persecutory delusions
XI. Pulmonary
   A. Knowledge of how to interpret ABG’s.
   B. Knowledge of assessment and interventions for a patient with artificial respiratory support (ventilator).
   C. Knowledge of signs and symptoms, assessment and treatment for age specific care:
      1. Infant sepsis
      2. Infant respiratory distress
   D. Knowledge of signs, symptoms and treatments for common acute care pulmonary emergencies:
      1. Pneumothorax
      2. Pulmonary embolism
      3. Pulmonary edema
      4. Traumatic chest injuries
      5. Flail chest
   E. Knowledge of signs, symptoms and treatments of common pulmonary conditions:
      1. COPD
      2. Emphysema
      3. Asthma
   F. Knowledge of common protocols and indications for common pulmonary procedures/interventions:
      1. Intubation (ET tube placement, verifying placement)
      2. BiPAP therapy
      3. Needle decompression
      4. Chest tube insertion and maintenance

XII. Trauma
    A. Knowledge of triage protocols in the Emergency Department.

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B. Knowledge of FAST trauma assessment tool.

C. Knowledge of age-specific signs and symptoms of shock.

D. Knowledge of appropriate methods for assessing suspected child/elder abuse.

E. Knowledge of acute care emergency medication administration methods for infants.

F. Knowledge of appropriate procedure and indications for rapid sequence intubation.

G. Knowledge of different types of fractures.

H. Knowledge of assessment and appropriate protocols of acute care emergencies:
   1. Splenic rupture/laceration
   2. Basal skull fracture
   3. Motor vehicle accidents
   4. Near Drowning
   5. Uterine rupture
   6. Spinal cord injury
   7. Tracheobronchial disruption
   8. Digital amputation