General ICU RN Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge of a registered nurse in the area of the General Intensive Care Unit.

Knowledge Domains - General ICU RN

- Cardiovascular: 17%
- Endocrine: 7%
- Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary: 15%
- General ICU Pharmacology: 15%
- General Knowledge: 14%
- Multisystem: 7%
- Neurological: 10%
- Pulmonary: 7%
- Renal: 5%

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I. Cardiovascular
   A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the cardiovascular system.
      1. Asymptomatic bradycardia
      2. Cardiac tamponade
      3. Endocarditis
      4. Right-sided heart failure
   B. Knowledge of principles and management of invasive treatments and monitoring as related to the ICU patient.
      1. Hemodynamic monitoring
      2. Transcutaneous pacing
      3. Pulmonary artery catheter
   C. Knowledge of indications for cardiac hypothermia treatment.
   D. Knowledge of principles of transfusions and related complications.
   E. Knowledge of symptoms of sepsis on the cardiovascular system.
   F. Knowledge of EKG interpretation and correlation of pertinent data that affect EKG changes.
   G. Knowledge of common cardiac medications administered in the ICU setting and adverse reactions to those medications.
   H. Knowledge of post-op management for cardiac catheterization.

II. Endocrine
   A. Knowledge of signs and symptoms, pertinent lab data, and treatments for disease processes that affect the Endocrine system.
      1. Diabetes and diabetic ketoacidosis
      2. SIADH
      3. Adrenal crisis
      4. Acute thyrotoxicosis
      5. Pancreatitis
B. Knowledge of principles of insulin administration.
C. Knowledge of hormones secreted by endocrine system.

III. Gastrointestinal/Genitourinary
   A. Knowledge of signs and symptoms, pertinent lab data, and treatments for disease processes that affect the GU/GI systems.
      1. GI bleed
      2. Small bowel obstruction
      3. Liver failure
      4. Intestinal perforation
      5. Hepatic encephalopathy
   B. Knowledge of post-op complications related to gastrointestinal surgeries.
   C. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of abdominal trauma.

IV. General ICU Pharmacology
   A. Knowledge of contraindications to common medications administered in ICU setting.
   B. Knowledge of antidotes to common medications administered in ICU setting.
   C. Knowledge of medications for anaphylactic shock treatment.
   D. Knowledge of medications and their effects on patients.
      1. Antipsychotics
      2. Antihypertensives
      3. Cardiac medications
      4. Diuretics
      5. Insulin
      6. Paralytics
      7. Sedatives
      8. Steroids
V. General Knowledge
A. Knowledge of principles of delegation to licensed and non-licensed personnel.
B. Knowledge of indications for tracheotomy.
C. Knowledge of principles of pain assessments for the unconscious patient.
D. Knowledge of principles of nursing negligence.
E. Knowledge of pathophysiology of thrombi.
F. Knowledge of principles of assessment and treatment of delirium.
G. Knowledge of different types of fluids and applications for use.
H. Knowledge of principles of DNR, advanced directives, and medical power of attorney.
I. Knowledge of principles of diet therapies for various disease processes.
J. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock.
K. Knowledge of principles of organ donation.
L. Knowledge of principles of transfusion therapy.

VI. Multisystem
A. Knowledge of treatments for abnormal serum chemistries.
B. Knowledge of principles of treatment and diagnosis of:
   1. Sepsis
   2. Septic shock
   3. Neurogenic shock
C. Knowledge of principles of lab interpretation for common disease processes in the ICU setting.
D. Knowledge of screening test for disseminated intravascular coagulation.
VII. Neurological
   A. Knowledge of principles of assessment and management of strokes.
      1. Treatment protocols
      2. Thrombolytic therapy
      3. Diagnostic tests
   B. Knowledge of principles of diagnosis and treatment for:
      1. Myasthenia gravis
      2. Seizures
      3. Guillain-Barre
   C. Knowledge of medications used to treat intra-cranial pressure.
   D. Knowledge of formulas for calculating CPP (cerebral perfusion pressure).
   E. Knowledge of interpreting lab data as it relates to neurological conditions.

VIII. Pulmonary
   A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and complete assessment of the pulmonary system.
   B. Knowledge of treatments for respiratory complications and adverse reactions of those treatments.
   C. Knowledge of disease processes and complications of the pulmonary system:
      1. Pneumonia
      2. Aspiration
      3. Pneumothorax
      4. COPD
   D. Knowledge of ABG interpretation.
   E. Knowledge of principles of intubation and extubation procedures.
   F. Knowledge of principles of mechanical ventilation management.
   G. Knowledge of principles and management of chest tubes.

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IX. Renal

A. Knowledge of principles of diagnosis and treatments for renal failure.
   1. Diet
   2. Dialysis
   3. Stages of renal failure

B. Knowledge of pathophysiology and factors that affect the renal system (rhabdomyolysis, antidiuretic hormone).

C. Knowledge of pertinent lab data as it relates to the renal system and signs and symptoms of abnormal values.