Medical Surgical Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure to overall level of clinical knowledge of the Registered Nurse in the area of the Medical Surgical Unit.

Knowledge Domains - Medical Surgical Exam

- Cardiovascular: 13%
- Endocrine: 12%
- Gastrointestinal: 10%
- General Knowledge: 12%
- Medical Surgical Pharmacology: 13%
- Multisystem: 13%
- Neurological: 8%
- Professional Issues: 6%
- Pulmonary: 4%
- Renal: 4%

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I. Cardiovascular
   A. Knowledge of assessment and plan of care of common diagnostic tests and procedures:
      1. Arteriogram
      2. Pneumothorax
   B. Knowledge of assessment of common cardiovascular disease processes:
      1. Cardiac tamponade
      2. Chronic oxygen deficiency
      3. Compartment syndrome
      4. Heart failure
      5. Structural heart disease
      6. Thrombocytopenia
   C. Knowledge of common complications following open heart surgery.
   D. Knowledge of principles of blood transfusion administration.
   E. Knowledge of risk factors for DVT's.
   F. Knowledge of treatment for common cardiovascular disease processes:
      1. CHF
      2. Pernicious anemia

II. Endocrine
   A. Knowledge of assessment and patient education of common Endocrine disease processes:
      1. Cushing’s syndrome
      2. Diabetes insipidus
      3. Grave’s disease
      4. Hypoglycemia
      5. Hyperthyroidism
6. Hypoparathyroidism
7. Pituitary tumor
8. SIADH (Syndrome of inappropriate antidiuretic hormone)

B. Knowledge of medication administration related to Endocrine disorders.

C. Knowledge of patient preparation for common diagnostic procedures.
   1. Abdominal ultrasound
   2. CT scan with IV contrast

D. Knowledge of treatment plan for diabetic ketoacidosis.

III. Gastrointestinal

A. Knowledge of assessment and treatment plan for common Gastrointestinal disease processes:
   1. Abdominal blunt force trauma
   2. Diverticulitis
   3. Esophageal varices
   4. Hiatal hernia
   5. Peritonitis
   6. Ulcers – Gastric, Peptic

B. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to complications of intermittent enteral feedings.

C. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to common post op surgical complications:
   1. Constipation
   2. Wound dehiscence

D. Knowledge of post op assessment and patient education of common Gastrointestinal surgical procedures:
   1. Appendectomy
   2. Colostomy

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E. Knowledge of procedure and assessment of nasogastric (NG) tubes.

IV. General Knowledge
A. Knowledge of administration of patient controlled analgesia (PCA’s).
B. Knowledge of assessment for common disease processes:
   1. Acute abdominal pain
   2. Aphasia
C. Knowledge of indications for paracentesis.
D. Knowledge of interpretations of normal and abnormal lab parameters.
E. Knowledge of management of JP drains.
F. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to language barriers.
G. Knowledge of oxygen therapy administration and fire prevention.
H. Knowledge of patient education related to treatment plans:
   1. Anticoagulants
   2. NPO status
   3. Dietary restrictions for Gout
I. Knowledge of principles of “teach-back” method for patient education.
J. Knowledge of principles of wet-to-dry dressings.
K. Knowledge of principles of surgical site infection prevention.

V. Medical Surgical Pharmacology
A. Knowledge of oral and parenteral dosage calculations.
B. Knowledge of medication administration principles:
   1. Drug classifications
   2. Patient education
   3. Toxicity

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4. Indications
5. Baseline vital signs
6. Lab assessments
C. Knowledge of metric conversions.
D. Knowledge of principles of triple lumen placement.
E. Knowledge of TPN administration techniques.

VI. Multisystem
A. Knowledge of assessment findings related to disease processes:
   1. Rheumatoid arthritis
   2. Systemic Lupus
   3. Burns
B. Knowledge of medication treatment for HIV.
C. Knowledge of pathophysiology of anaerobic metabolism.
D. Knowledge of principles and risks for hypovolemic shock.
E. Knowledge of stages of pressure ulcers.

VII. Neurological
A. Knowledge of focused assessment related to neurologic status/conditions:
   1. Acute neurologic changes
   2. Intracranial pressure
   3. Stroke
   4. Cerebrospinal fluid drainage
B. Knowledge of management/interventions for status epilepticus.
C. Knowledge of nursing diagnoses related to neurologic status.
D. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to pain associated with herniated disk.
E. Knowledge of pathophysiology of CVA.
F. Knowledge of principles of treatment for hemorrhagic CVA.
G. Knowledge of symptoms related to abnormal lab levels.

VIII. Professional Issues
A. Knowledge of appropriate delegation of nursing tasks.
B. Knowledge of nursing scope of practice principles related to surgical consents.
D. Knowledge of principles of conflict resolutions related to family dynamics.
E. Knowledge of principles of cultural diversity.
F. Knowledge of principles of organ donation protocols.

IX. Pulmonary
A. Knowledge of care and treatment associated with diagnostic tests and procedures:
   1. Oxygen therapy – delivery systems
   2. Tracheostomy
   3. Suctioning
   4. Pulmonary function tests
   5. Chest tubes:
      a. Placement procedure
      b. Removal procedure
      c. Indications
      d. Patient education
B. Knowledge of care and treatment for Pulmonary disease processes:
   1. Chronic pulmonary emphysema
2. Chronic heart failure (CHF) – discharge teaching
3. Tuberculosis - precautions
C. Knowledge of arterial blood gas (ABG) interpretation.
D. Knowledge of assessment related to cyanosis.

X. Renal
A. Knowledge of dialysis management:
   1. Patient education
   2. AV fistulas
   3. Diet
   4. Lab parameters (normal, abnormal and desired outcome)
B. Knowledge of nutritional patient education related to Renal disease processes:
   1. Chronic renal failure
   2. Chronic renal stones
C. Knowledge of management of urinary catheters:
   1. Catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI) – prevention and assessment
   2. Placement procedure
   3. Troubleshooting complications
D. Knowledge of terminology associated with urine output.
E. Knowledge of treatment for acute pulmonary conditions in a renal patient.