Medical Surgical-Telemetry Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall clinical knowledge of the Registered Nurse in the Medical Surgical-Telemetry setting.

Knowledge Domains
Medical Surgical-Telemetry RN

- Cardiovascular: 15%
- Dysrhythmia Interpretation: 9%
- Endocrine: 7%
- Gastrointestinal: 13%
- General Knowledge: 12%
- Neurological: 10%
- Pharmacology: 7%
- Professional Issues: 7%
- Pulmonary: 10%
- Renal/Genitourinary: 7%

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I. Cardiovascular
   A. Knowledge of dietary education related cardiac disease process.
   B. Knowledge of how to recognize changes in ECG and appropriate interventions.
   C. Knowledge of pathophysiology of common cardiac disease processes, including discharge teaching.
   D. Knowledge of appropriate procedures for obtaining vital signs and blood specimens related to patient history and status.
   E. Knowledge of common cardiac medications used in the medical surgical setting, including:
      1. Appropriate assessments prior to administering medications
      2. Indications
      3. Side effects
   F. Knowledge of contraindications for anticoagulant medication therapy.
   G. Knowledge of protocols and when to initiate treatment for emergency situations.
   H. Knowledge of treatment protocols for myocardial infarction.

II. Dysrhythmia Interpretation
   A. Sinus Rhythms
      1. Normal Sinus Rhythm
      2. Sinus Bradycardia
      3. Sinus Tachycardia
   B. Atrial Rhythms
      1. Atrial Flutter
      2. Atrial Fibrillation
      3. Premature Atrial Contractions
C. Ventricular Rhythms
   1. Premature Ventricular Contractions
   2. Ventricular Fibrillation
   3. Ventricular Tachycardia
   4. Asystole

D. Paced Rhythms

E. Determining heart rate

III. Endocrine
   A. Knowledge of pathophysiology, assessment findings, and treatment protocols for common endocrine disease processes:
      1. Diabetes
      2. Electrolyte imbalances
      3. Hypoglycemia
      4. Pancreatitis

   B. Knowledge of contraindications related to antidiabetic medications.

   C. Knowledge of diabetic education for:
      1. Dietary considerations
      2. Insulin requirements related to secondary diseases processes

   D. Knowledge of treatment of care and post-operative complications of common endocrine surgical procedures:
      1. Parathyroidectomy
      2. Subtotal thyroidectomy

IV. Gastrointestinal
   A. Knowledge of common gastrointestinal post-operative complications.


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C. Knowledge of pathophysiology, assessment findings, and treatment protocols for common gastrointestinal disease processes:
   1. Upper GI bleed
   2. Lower GI bleed
   3. Gastric ulcers
   4. Diarrhea
   5. Diverticulitis

D. Knowledge of normal and abnormal lab values related to gastrointestinal disease processes.

V. General Knowledge
   A. Knowledge of principles of TB skin testing.
   B. Knowledge of treatment and monitoring of patient on PCA pump, including reversal agents.
   C. Knowledge of principles of isolation precautions:
      1. Proper hand hygiene protocols
      2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
   D. Knowledge of dietary education for celiac disease.
   E. Knowledge of normal and abnormal lab values for common laboratory tests.
   F. Knowledge of blood and blood products administration including adverse reactions.
   G. Knowledge of calculating intake and output.
   H. Knowledge of principles of assessment for a patient with restraints.
   I. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of suicidal ideations.
   J. Knowledge of caring for non-ambulatory patient.
   K. Knowledge of appropriate procedures for obtaining vital signs and blood specimens related to patient history and status.
VI. Neurological
   A. Knowledge of treatment protocols for:
      1. Seizures
      2. Falls
      3. Hemorrhagic CVA
   B. Knowledge of assessment findings for neurological conditions:
      1. Increased intracranial pressure
      2. Increased sodium levels
      3. Stroke
   C. Knowledge of dietary considerations for dysphagia.
   D. Knowledge of principles of Glasgow Coma scale.

VII. Pharmacology
   A. Knowledge of parenteral dosage calculations.
   B. Knowledge of medication administration principles:
      1. Drug classifications and indications
      2. Patient education
      3. Dietary considerations/contraindications
      4. Toxicity
      5. Baseline vital signs
      6. Subcutaneous injection sites
   C. Knowledge of side effects of tuberculosis medications.
   D. Knowledge of medication contraindications based on patient status.
   E. Knowledge of anticoagulant antidote medication administration.
   F. Knowledge of narcotic reversal agent medication administration.
   G. Knowledge of how to monitor for adverse side effects.
   H. Knowledge of medication contraindications related to known drug allergies.
VIII. Professional Issues
   A. Knowledge of principles and protocols for advance directives.
   B. Knowledge of protocols for suspected coworker substance abuse.
   C. Knowledge of principles of cultural diversity and protocols for communicating with non-English speaking patients.
   D. Knowledge of principles of patient privacy and HIPAA guidelines.
   E. Knowledge of appropriate procedures for wasting narcotics.
   F. Knowledge of prioritizing patient assessments.
   G. Knowledge of principles for obtaining informed consents.

IX. Pulmonary
   A. Knowledge of performing comprehensive pulmonary assessment.
   B. Knowledge of normal and abnormal pulmonary assessment findings.
   C. Knowledge of arterial blood gas (ABG) interpretation.
   D. Knowledge of pathophysiology and appropriate treatment interventions of common pulmonary conditions:
      1. Acute respiratory distress
      2. COPD
      3. Pulmonary embolism
      4. Pneumothorax
   E. Knowledge of oxygen therapy and delivery systems, including patient and family education related to therapy.
   F. Knowledge of procedures for care of chest tubes.

X. Renal/Genitourinary
   A. Knowledge of placement and management of indwelling urinary catheters.
   B. Knowledge of tests and procedures for common renal and genitourinary conditions.
C. Knowledge of pathophysiology and treatment of care of common renal and genitourinary conditions:
   1. Acute kidney injury
   2. Kidney stones
   3. Renal failure
   4. Urinary tract infection

D. Knowledge of principles of dialysis.