NICU Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge of the Registered Nurse in the area of the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit.

Knowledge Domains - NICU Exam

- Critical Thinking: 30%
- General Knowledge: 39%
- Medication Identification/Recognition: 27%
- Specialty Skill Assessment: 3%

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I. **Critical Thinking**
   A. Knowledge of intubation and ETT placement in the neonatal population.
   B. Knowledge of ABG interpretation for the neonatal intensive care unit.
   C. Knowledge of disease processes that are common to the neonatal intensive care unit.
   D. Knowledge of complications of CPAP in the neonatal intensive care unit.
   E. Knowledge of risk factors for the neonate of a diabetic mother.
   F. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to feedings in the neonatal intensive care unit.
   G. Knowledge of cardiopulmonary physiology as it relates to the neonate.

II. **General Knowledge**
   A. Knowledge of disease processes that are common to the neonatal intensive care unit.
   B. Knowledge of thermal regulatory compensatory mechanisms in the neonate.
   C. Knowledge of therapeutic touch related to the preterm infant.
   D. Knowledge of dynamics related to the adolescent parent.
   E. Knowledge of obtaining vital signs in the neonate.
   F. Knowledge of mechanical ventilation in the neonatal population.
   G. Knowledge of intubation and ETT placement in the neonatal population.

III. **Medication Identification/Recognition**
   A. Basic knowledge of compatibility of drugs commonly seen in the NICU.
IV. Specialty Skill Assessment

A. Knowledge of disease processes that are common to the neonatal intensive care unit.

B. Knowledge of ABG interpretation as it relates to disease processes common to the NICU.

C. Knowledge of observable behaviors in the neonate.

D. Knowledge of hypothermia in the neonate.

E. Knowledge of blood and blood components in the NICU.

F. Knowledge of indications for Nitric Oxide (NO) in the neonate.