Pre-Operative RN Exam Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall clinical knowledge of the Registered Nurse in the Pre-Operative setting.

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.

Knowledge Domains - Pre-Operative RN

- Clinical Practice: 37%
- Communication & Patient Education: 18%
- Medication Administration & Pain Management: 15%
- Patient Safety & Management of Environment: 17%
- Professional Issues: 12%
I. **Clinical Practice**

A. Knowledge of assessing patient status upon admission and on a continuing basis.

B. Knowledge of formulating appropriate nursing diagnoses for the surgical patient.

C. Knowledge of principles and procedures for obtaining accurate blood pressure measurement:
   1. Appropriate cuff size
   2. Appropriate cuff placement related to patient history and status – mastectomy, AV fistula
   3. Assessing postural hypotension

D. Knowledge of principles of preoperative oral intake guidelines:
   1. Providing appropriate preoperative patient education
   2. Assessing patient understanding of education
   3. Assessing NPO status, including reporting significant findings to appropriate team members

E. Knowledge of collecting, handling and labeling blood specimens using appropriate methods and containers.

F. Knowledge of non-invasive techniques for DVT prevention.

G. Knowledge of principles of assessing and maintaining sterile field utilizing aseptic technique.

H. Knowledge of principles and procedures associated with the administration of blood and blood products:
   1. Monitoring labs values
   2. Assessing for signs and symptoms of adverse reactions
   3. Interventions for suspected reaction
I. Knowledge of treatment protocols for hypoglycemia, including assessing and monitoring for effectiveness.

J. Knowledge of identifying risk factors for negative outcomes as it relates to patient mental status.

K. Knowledge of protocols for obtaining informed consent in the confused patient.

L. Knowledge of principles of ensuring appropriate marking of the surgical site utilizing best practices as it relates to Universal Protocol.

M. Knowledge of recognizing and assessing change in patient status and utilizing appropriate interventions:
   1. Activating rapid response team and/or code team
   2. Applying assistive measures – O2
   3. Notifying appropriate healthcare personnel – physician, anesthesia

N. Knowledge of appropriate protocols for emergency situations:
   1. BLS and ACLS guidelines
   2. Interventions for lethal rhythms
   3. Do Not Resuscitate orders as it relates to the preoperative setting

O. Knowledge of treatment interventions for urinary retention as it relates to patient status.

P. Knowledge of managing a variety of tubes:
   1. Chest tube care, including assessing for air leaks
   2. Accurately measuring for nasogastric tube placement

Q. Knowledge of surgical wound classifications – clean, clean-contaminated, contaminated, dirty.

R. Knowledge of surgery classifications – reconstructive, constructive, palliative, cosmetic.

S. Knowledge of principles of wound assessment and staging.
T. Knowledge of principles of peripheral IVs including:
   1. Insertion
   2. Assessment and intervention for complications

U. Knowledge of assessing lab values, including appropriate protocols for
   abnormal and/or critical lab values:
   1. Glucose
   2. INR
   3. Hemoglobin

V. Knowledge of principles for assessment of metal implants to ensure patient
   safety.

W. Knowledge of lab chemistry monitoring for pre and post parathyroidectomy.

X. Knowledge of principles of vasovagal response.

Y. Knowledge of preoperative checklists and patient prep including but not limited
to:
   1. Assessing effectiveness of preoperative bowel preps
   2. Ensuring pregnancy tests obtained for appropriate procedures
   3. Medical record documentation related to history & physical
      requirements

Z. Knowledge of assessing patient allergies as they relate to perioperative setting:
   1. Contraindications related to skin preps
   2. Identifying critical symptoms related to known allergies

II. Communication and Patient Education

   A. Knowledge of providing psychological support to the preoperative patient
      utilizing therapeutic communication.
B. Knowledge of conducting preoperative phone calls to patients, including but not limited to, providing and assessing understanding of preoperative instructions, and communicating concerning findings to the appropriate healthcare staff.

C. Knowledge of patient assessment related to obstructive sleep apnea, including rationale and risk factors.

D. Knowledge of patient education related to commonly administered medications in the preoperative setting.

E. Knowledge of principles of patient education in the preoperative setting:
   1. Assessing patient’s knowledge base related to procedure
   2. Setting preoperative education goals
   3. Assessing effectiveness and understanding of preoperative teaching/education
   4. Ensuring patient privacy

F. Knowledge of providing preoperative patient education related to:
   1. Preventing falls
   2. Preoperative medications to take morning of surgery
   3. Medication contraindicated related to contrast dye procedures

G. Knowledge of principles of patient education related to preventing postoperative respiratory complications.

H. Knowledge of patient education related to postoperative instructions for specific procedures:
   1. Septoplasty
   2. Thyroidectomy
   3. Laparoscopic assisted vaginal hysterectomy
   4. ORIF

I. Knowledge of appropriate IV sites for specific patient populations – mastectomy.

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J. Knowledge of principles related to hand off communication – SBAR.

K. Knowledge of indications for conscious sedation.

III. Medication Administration & Pain Management

A. Knowledge of appropriate preoperative treatment protocols for specific disease processes:
   1. Hypertension
   2. Hypoglycemia
   3. Asthma

B. Knowledge of effects of alcohol abuse related to analgesic and anesthetic agents.

C. Knowledge of drug classifications prescribed to decrease oral and respiratory secretions in the surgical setting.

D. Knowledge of principles of diuretic medication administration.

E. Knowledge of pain medications commonly administered in the preoperative setting, including patient education for taking prescribed pain medication.

F. Knowledge of appropriate home medications the patient can take the day of surgery.

G. Knowledge of reversal agents for specific drug classifications:
   1. Opioids
   2. Benzodiazepines

H. Knowledge of principles of conscious sedation:
   1. Indications
   2. Effects on patient
I. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of adverse reactions related to medication administration:
   1. Malignant Hyperthermia
   2. Antibiotics
   3. Blood products

J. Knowledge of accurately calculating IV fluid bolus per physician’s order.

K. Knowledge of principles of pain management techniques for IV insertion.

L. Knowledge of principles of RhoGAM administration.

M. Knowledge of assessing patient’s drug allergies, and protocols for identified contraindications of prescribed treatment and orders.

N. Knowledge of appropriate IV fluid administration for end stage renal disease.

IV. Patient Safety/Management of Clinical Environment

A. Knowledge of principles of Time-out procedures.

B. Knowledge of infection control principles, including:
   1. Appropriate personal protective equipment selection
   2. Procedures for preventing healthcare associated infections

C. Knowledge of safe patient handling techniques, including using mechanical lifting devices.

D. Knowledge of procedures and processes for performing environmental cleaning related to infectious diseases.

E. Knowledge of principles of patient safety related to falls:
   1. Prevention measures
   2. Interventions for patient falls
   3. Medication administration related to sedatives

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F. Knowledge of principles of priority assessment measures for ensuring patient safety.

G. Knowledge of protocols and procedures for sequential compression devices, including assessing for contraindications.

H. Knowledge of principles of sentinel events.

I. Knowledge of assessing patient medication history related to contraindications for surgery.

J. Knowledge of procedures for identifying correct surgical site, patient interview and review of medical chart, and protocol for addressing disparity.

V. Professional Issues

A. Knowledge of principles of informed consent, including but not limited to:
   1. Definition and rationale
   2. Procedures for obtaining, including consent for minors
   3. Obtaining consent for blood transfusions

B. Knowledge of common patient identifiers for confirming identity.

C. Knowledge of assessing patient understanding of surgical/invasive procedure related to informed consent and protocols for obtaining further clarification.

D. Knowledge of principles of legal and professional standards and how to abide by them:
   1. Advance directives
   2. Blood products consent
   3. Do Not Resuscitate orders
   4. HIPAA
   5. Patient rights

E. Knowledge of principles of professional conduct:

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1. Social media and cell phone usage in the healthcare setting
2. Chain of command reporting
3. Professional conduct descriptions
4. Negligence

F. Knowledge of and ability to document appropriately and accurately in the medical record (paper, electronic, etc.).

G. Knowledge of appropriate procedures for wasting narcotics.

H. Knowledge of procedures for reporting signs of neglect/abuse.

I. Knowledge of therapeutic communication for supporting patient’s decisions and beliefs.