

01	☒ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E
02	☐ A	☐ B	☐ C	☒ D	☐ E
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33	☐ A	☐ B	☒ C	☐ D	☐ E
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36	☐ A	☐ B	☒ C	☐ D	☐ E
37	☐ A	☐ B	☒ C	☐ D	☐ E
38	☒ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E
39	☒ A	☐ B	☐ C	☐ D	☐ E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC)

G953M3LC

Certified Post Anesthesia Nurse (CPAN)

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for American Board of Perianesthesia Nursing Certification (ABPANC) G953M3LC , each with its answer key and an explanation. Answer a question before you read its key — the explanation is worth more once you have committed.

If something looks wrong

Send us three things and we will check it:

- the exam code, G953M3LC
- the question number
- the email address on your order

Write to **support@mometrix.net**. We reply within one business day.

QUESTION 1

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient is admitted to the post anesthesia care unit (PACU) following an inpatient abdominal procedure under general anesthesia. On the initial airway assessment, the PACU nurse notes inspiratory stridor, accessory muscle use, and decreasing oxygen saturation. What is the priority nursing action?

- ☐ A Administer supplemental oxygen via nasal cannula at 2 L/min
- ☐ B Encourage the patient to take slow, deep breaths
- ☐ C Position the patient in the prone position
- ☒ D Apply positive pressure ventilation with a bag-valve-mask and call for assistance

ANSWER D

WHY Inspiratory stridor with accessory muscle use and falling SpO₂ is consistent with post-extubation laryngospasm, a PACU emergency. The priority action is to provide positive pressure ventilation with a bag-valve-mask using 100% oxygen and to summon help immediately. Repositioning, nasal cannula, and coaching breaths are inadequate and delay definitive treatment.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

A PACU patient 30 minutes after a total knee arthroplasty reports a pain level of 8 on a 0–10 numeric scale. Vital signs are stable, and the Aldrete score is 9. Which action by the perianesthesia nurse is most appropriate at this time?

- ☒ A Administer the prescribed opioid analgesic and reassess pain in 15 minutes
- ☐ B Delay analgesia until the patient is fully awake and oriented
- ☐ C Apply only nonpharmacologic measures such as guided imagery
- ☐ D Withhold analgesia to prevent opioid-induced respiratory depression

ANSWER A

WHY Effective pain control is a core PACU nursing responsibility. Once airway, breathing, and circulation are stable (as reflected by the Aldrete score of 9), the prescribed opioid should be administered promptly and pain reassessed. Withholding or substituting analgesia increases the risk of adverse physiologic effects from poorly controlled pain.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient who received general anesthesia becomes restless in the PACU with a blood pressure of 168/102 mm Hg, heart rate of 122 beats/min, respiratory rate of 28 breaths/min, and SpO₂ of 89%. The patient is awake and complaining of severe pain. Which complication is most consistent with this presentation?

- ☐ A Malignant hyperthermia
- ☒ B Postoperative pain leading to sympathetic stimulation and hypoxemia
- ☐ C Anaphylactic reaction to anesthetic agents
- ☐ D Transfusion reaction

ANSWER B

WHY Severe postoperative pain can produce tachycardia, hypertension, tachypnea, and decreased oxygen saturation from splinting and increased oxygen demand. Malignant hyperthermia typically includes hypercapnia, muscle rigidity, and hyperthermia. Anaphylaxis presents with hypotension, bronchospasm, and urticaria, not isolated hypertension. The findings fit uncontrolled postoperative pain.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A perianesthesia nurse is calculating an Aldrete score for a patient who just arrived in the PACU after general anesthesia. Which five parameters are included in the Aldrete scoring system used for Phase I discharge readiness?

- ☒ A Activity, respiration, circulation, consciousness, and color (SpO₂)
- ☐ B Activity, respiration, blood pressure, temperature, and surgical site
- ☐ C Airway, breathing, circulation, disability, and exposure
- ☐ D Pain, nausea, temperature, surgical drain output, and urine output

ANSWER A

WHY The Aldrete score (and its commonly used modified version with SpO₂ replacing color) assesses activity, respiration, circulation, consciousness, and oxygenation/color. A score of 9 or 10 typically indicates readiness for transfer from Phase I. ABCDE and postoperative-specific parameters are not components of the Aldrete tool.

QUESTION 5

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient is being prepared for discharge from the Phase II PACU after ambulatory surgery. Which instruction is most appropriate for the perianesthesia nurse to provide regarding postoperative transportation home?

- ☐ A The patient may drive themselves home if they feel alert
- ☒ B A responsible adult must accompany the patient and drive them home
- ☐ C A taxi is acceptable as long as the patient is awake
- ☐ D Public transportation is appropriate if the patient is pain-free

ANSWER B

WHY Patients who have received sedation or general anesthesia must be discharged to a responsible adult who can accompany them home and monitor them. Driving oneself, taking a taxi alone, or using public transportation are unsafe and do not meet discharge criteria because the patient may have residual cognitive and motor effects from anesthesia.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

During emergence from general anesthesia in the PACU, a patient suddenly develops tachycardia, an elevated end-tidal CO₂ that is unresponsive to increased ventilation, generalized muscle rigidity, and a rapidly rising temperature. Which medication should the perianesthesia nurse anticipate being administered?

- ☐ A Acetaminophen rectally
- ☒ B Dantrolene sodium intravenously
- ☐ C Naloxone intravenously
- ☐ D Diphenhydramine intravenously

ANSWER B

WHY The clinical presentation is classic for malignant hyperthermia. The definitive treatment is dantrolene sodium, a skeletal muscle relaxant that inhibits calcium release from the sarcoplasmic reticulum. Acetaminophen, naloxone, and diphenhydramine do not address the underlying pathophysiology and would delay life-saving treatment.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

An older adult patient is admitted to the PACU following a long abdominal surgery. The tympanic temperature is 35.0 °C (95.0 °F). The patient is shivering and reports feeling cold. Which nursing intervention is most appropriate initially?

- ☐ A Administer an ordered antipyretic such as acetaminophen
- ☒ B Apply forced-air warming and remove wet gowns and drapes
- ☐ C Place ice packs along the axillae and groin
- ☐ D Administer a muscle relaxant to stop the shivering

ANSWER B

WHY Inadvertent perioperative hypothermia is treated with active rewarming such as forced-air warming devices, warm blankets, and removal of wet linens. Antipyretics are not indicated because the low temperature is not from a fever set-point change. Ice packs and muscle relaxants would worsen hypothermia and are inappropriate.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

A PACU patient who is 10 minutes postoperative from general anesthesia is noted to have loud snoring respirations and a falling oxygen saturation. The jaw-thrust maneuver improves the airway. What is the most likely cause of this patient's airway obstruction?

- ☐ A Laryngospasm
- ☒ B Obstruction by the tongue relaxing against the posterior pharynx
- ☐ C Bronchospasm
- ☐ D Bilateral vocal cord paralysis

ANSWER B

WHY Snoring respirations that improve with a jaw-thrust or chin-lift maneuver are characteristic of soft tissue obstruction from the relaxed tongue falling against the posterior pharynx, which is common in the early post-anesthesia period. Laryngospasm produces inspiratory stridor, bronchospasm produces wheezing, and bilateral vocal cord paralysis is rare and not relieved by jaw thrust.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A perianesthesia nurse is preparing to discharge a Phase II PACU patient after outpatient surgery. Which criteria must typically be met before discharge home? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Stable vital signs within the expected range for the patient
- ☒ **B** Presence of a responsible adult to accompany the patient home
- ☐ **C** Ability to tolerate a regular diet without nausea
- ☒ **D** Pain controlled with oral medications and minimal nausea

ANSWER A • B • D

WHY Phase II discharge criteria generally include stable vital signs, control of pain and postoperative nausea with oral medications, intact gag reflex, ability to ambulate with minimal assistance, and a responsible adult to escort the patient home. Tolerance of a regular diet is not a required discharge criterion; patients are commonly advanced as tolerated after discharge from Phase II.