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PRACTICE QUESTIONS

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9

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9 practice questions for Elsevier Remotely Proctored Exams **20CE**, 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.

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QUESTION 1

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A clinical trial is evaluating a new antihypertensive drug. The null hypothesis (H_0) states that the drug has no effect on reducing systolic blood pressure. After the study, researchers conclude that the drug does reduce blood pressure when, in reality, it does not. Which of the following statements correctly describe this error? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** This is a Type I error, also called a false positive.
- ☐ **B** This is a Type II error, also called a false negative.
- ☒ **C** The probability of making this specific error is denoted by α (alpha).
- ☐ **D** The probability of making this specific error is denoted by β (beta).
- ☐ **E** This error occurs when the null hypothesis is incorrectly retained.
- ☐ **F** This error can only occur when the sample size is too large.

ANSWER A - C

WHY Rejecting a true null hypothesis is a Type I error (false positive), and its probability is α (the significance level). Because the researchers incorrectly concluded that the drug works when it actually does not, they committed a Type I error. A Type II error (false negative, β) occurs when a false null hypothesis is incorrectly retained, which is the opposite of what happened here.

QUESTION 2 MULTIPLE CHOICE

A nurse is implementing evidence-based practice (EBP) when caring for postoperative patients. Which of the following actions are essential components of EBP? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Integrating the best current research evidence with clinical expertise.
- ☐ **B** Relying solely on the personal opinions of senior staff members.
- ☒ **C** Incorporating patient values, preferences, and circumstances into care decisions.
- ☐ **D** Following long-standing unit traditions without questioning their basis.
- ☐ **E** Using only randomized controlled trials and disregarding all other study designs.
- ☐ **F** Avoiding clinical judgment in favor of strictly following published guidelines.

ANSWER A - C

WHY Evidence-based practice is defined as the integration of the best available research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values, preferences, and circumstances. The other options describe practices that contradict EBP: relying solely on opinion, unquestioned tradition, or rigid adherence to a single study design are not components of EBP.

QUESTION 3 SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following is the primary chemical mediator responsible for the vasodilation and increased vascular permeability observed during the vascular phase of acute inflammation?

- ☐ **A** Interleukin-1 (IL-1)
- ☒ **B** Histamine
- ☐ **C** Tumor necrosis factor-alpha (TNF- α)
- ☐ **D** Prostaglandin E2 (PGE2)

ANSWER B

WHY Histamine, released primarily from mast cells, basophils, and platelets, is the principal mediator responsible for the immediate vasodilation and increased vascular permeability that characterize the vascular phase of acute inflammation. IL-1 and TNF- α act more slowly and are major cytokines of the cellular phase, while prostaglandins (such as PGE2) primarily mediate pain and vasodilation later in the inflammatory response.

QUESTION 4 SINGLE CHOICE

According to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Code of Ethics for Nurses, which ethical principle requires the nurse to act in good faith and to keep promises made to patients?

- ☐ A Autonomy
- ☐ B Beneficence
- ☒ C Fidelity
- ☐ D Justice

ANSWER C

WHY Fidelity is the ethical principle that obligates nurses to be faithful to their commitments, keep promises, and act with loyalty toward those in their trust. Autonomy refers to self-determination; benefitfulness to doing good; and justice to treating patients fairly and equitably.

QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

During which step of the nursing process does the nurse establish priorities, set measurable goals, and determine nursing interventions to address identified patient problems?

- ☐ A Assessment
- ☐ B Nursing diagnosis
- ☒ C Planning
- ☐ D Evaluation

ANSWER C

WHY The planning phase of the nursing process is when the nurse prioritizes diagnoses, formulates measurable goals and expected outcomes, and selects appropriate nursing interventions. Assessment involves data collection, nursing diagnosis involves clinical judgment about patient problems, and evaluation determines whether the goals were met.

QUESTION 6

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient with newly diagnosed breast cancer states, "I just know this treatment won't help me, and I'm going to die anyway." Which therapeutic communication response by the nurse is most appropriate?

- ☐ A "Don't say that; you have to stay positive to get better."
- ☒ B "You're feeling hopeless about your diagnosis and treatment."
- ☐ C "Many patients with breast cancer recover and live full lives."
- ☐ D "Why do you think the treatment won't help you?"

ANSWER B

WHY Option B reflects the patient's feelings back to her in a nonjudgmental way, which is an example of reflecting—a therapeutic communication technique that validates the patient's emotions and encourages further expression. Option A is dismissive, Option C is providing false reassurance, and Option D asks "why," which can make the patient feel defensive.

QUESTION 7

SINGLE CHOICE

When administering a scheduled oral medication, the nurse notes that the patient has just vomited. What is the most appropriate nursing action?

- ☐ A Administer the medication as scheduled since the dose is due.
- ☒ B Hold the medication and document the patient was unable to take it.
- ☐ C Administer a double dose at the next scheduled time.
- ☐ D Administer the same dose by the subcutaneous route.

ANSWER B

WHY If a patient vomits shortly after oral medication administration, the nurse should hold the medication and document the event, then notify the prescriber. The medication may not have been absorbed, and giving another dose could result in overdose once the original dose is absorbed. The route of administration cannot be changed without a prescriber order.

QUESTION 8

SINGLE CHOICE

Which of the following infection control actions directly breaks the chain of infection at the mode of transmission link?

- ☐ A Administering prophylactic antibiotics to uninfected patients.
- ☒ B Performing proper hand hygiene between patient contacts.
- ☐ C Ensuring patients receive recommended immunizations.
- ☐ D Treating an infected patient with the appropriate antimicrobial therapy.

ANSWER B

WHY Hand hygiene interrupts the chain of infection at the mode of transmission by preventing the spread of pathogens via direct or indirect contact. Prophylactic antibiotics and immunizations target the susceptible host, while antimicrobial therapy addresses the reservoir/source by reducing the infectious agent.

QUESTION 9

SINGLE CHOICE

Upon auscultation of the abdomen, the nurse notes high-pitched, loud bowel sounds occurring at a frequency of more than 30 per minute. Which of the following conditions is this finding most commonly associated with?

- ☐ A Paralytic ileus
- ☒ B Intestinal obstruction
- ☐ C Peritonitis
- ☐ D Bowel perforation

ANSWER B

WHY High-pitched, loud, hyperactive bowel sounds (borborygmi) occurring at an increased frequency are most commonly associated with early intestinal obstruction, when peristalsis increases in an attempt to push contents past the obstruction. Hypoactive or absent bowel sounds are characteristic of paralytic ileus, peritonitis, and bowel perforation.