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39	A	B	C	D	E

PRACTICE QUESTIONS

Elsevier Remotely Proctored Exams

PNPHR

Practical Nursing Pharmacology

EDITION

Demo

QUESTIONS

9

FORMAT

Limited Edition PDF

Before you begin

What this is

9 practice questions for Elsevier Remotely Proctored Exams **PNPHR**, 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, **PNPHR**
- 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 nurse is preparing to administer an enteric-coated tablet to a patient. Which action by the nurse demonstrates safe administration of this medication?

- ☐ A Crushing the tablet and mixing it with applesauce
- ☒ B Administering the tablet whole with a full glass of water
- ☐ C Cutting the tablet in half and giving both halves together
- ☐ D Dissolving the tablet in 30 mL of warm water

ANSWER B

WHY Enteric-coated tablets are designed to dissolve in the small intestine, not the stomach, to protect the medication from gastric acid or to protect the gastric mucosa. Crushing, cutting, or dissolving the tablet destroys the enteric coating and can cause the drug to be inactivated, cause gastric irritation, or produce an erratic therapeutic effect. The tablet must be swallowed whole with a sufficient amount of fluid, typically a full glass of water.

QUESTION 2

SINGLE CHOICE

A physician orders 250 mg of a medication to be given intravenously. The medication vial contains 500 mg in 10 mL. How many mL should the nurse administer?

- ☐ A 2 mL
- ☒ B 5 mL
- ☐ C 10 mL
- ☐ D 0.5 mL

ANSWER B

WHY Use the standard formula: $\text{Desired/Have} \times \text{Quantity}$. Desired = 250 mg, Have = 500 mg, Quantity = 10 mL. $(250 \div 500) \times 10 = 0.5 \times 10 = 5$ mL. This calculation is a foundational dosage calculation skill frequently assessed on nursing pharmacology examinations.

QUESTION 3

SINGLE CHOICE

A patient is started on warfarin therapy. Which laboratory value will the nurse monitor to evaluate the therapeutic effectiveness of this medication?

- ☐ A Activated partial thromboplastin time (aPTT)
- ☒ B International Normalized Ratio (INR)
- ☐ C Platelet count
- ☐ D Bleeding time

ANSWER B

WHY Warfarin is a vitamin K antagonist that inhibits the synthesis of clotting factors II, VII, IX, and X. Its therapeutic effect is monitored using the International Normalized Ratio (INR), which standardizes prothrombin time (PT) results. aPTT is used to monitor unfractionated heparin therapy. Platelet count and bleeding time are not used to titrate warfarin dosing.

QUESTION 4

SINGLE CHOICE

A nurse explains to a patient that a medication has reached its plateau level in the bloodstream. Which pharmacokinetic concept is the nurse describing?

- ☐ A First-pass effect
- ☐ B Bioavailability
- ☒ C Steady state
- ☐ D Half-life

ANSWER C

WHY Steady state (plateau) occurs when the rate of drug administration equals the rate of drug elimination, resulting in consistent blood levels of the medication. Steady state is typically reached after approximately four to five half-lives of the drug. First-pass effect refers to hepatic metabolism before systemic circulation, bioavailability refers to the fraction of drug reaching systemic circulation, and half-life is the time required for plasma concentration to decrease by 50%.

QUESTION 5 SINGLE CHOICE

A patient receiving gentamicin develops tinnitus, vertigo, and hearing loss. Which adverse effect is the nurse most likely documenting?

- ☐ A Nephrotoxicity
- ☐ B Hepatotoxicity
- ☒ C Ototoxicity
- ☐ D Neurotoxicity

ANSWER C

WHY Gentamicin is an aminoglycoside antibiotic associated with ototoxicity, which manifests as damage to cranial nerve VIII, producing tinnitus, vertigo, and sensorineural hearing loss. Aminoglycosides are also nephrotoxic, but the symptoms described are auditory/vestibular in nature, indicating ototoxicity. Hepatotoxicity is associated with other drug classes (e.g., acetaminophen, isoniazid), and neurotoxicity is a broader and less specific descriptor.

QUESTION 6 SINGLE CHOICE

A patient with type 2 diabetes mellitus is prescribed metformin. Which statement by the nurse correctly describes the mechanism of action of this medication?

- ☐ A Stimulates pancreatic beta cells to release insulin
- ☒ B Decreases hepatic glucose production and increases insulin sensitivity
- ☐ C Delays the digestion and absorption of carbohydrates in the intestine
- ☐ D Replaces insulin that is not produced by the pancreas

ANSWER B

WHY Metformin is a biguanide that decreases hepatic gluconeogenesis (glucose production by the liver) and increases peripheral insulin sensitivity in muscle and adipose tissue. It does not stimulate insulin release from pancreatic beta cells (that describes sulfonylureas), delay carbohydrate absorption (that describes alpha-glucosidase inhibitors such as acarbose), or replace insulin (that describes exogenous insulin therapy).

QUESTION 7 SINGLE CHOICE

A patient is receiving morphine sulfate for postoperative pain. Which finding would the nurse identify as the most concerning adverse effect requiring immediate intervention?

- ☐ A Sedation
- ☐ B Constipation
- ☒ C Respiratory rate of 8 breaths per minute
- ☐ D Nausea

ANSWER C

WHY Opioid-induced respiratory depression is the most life-threatening adverse effect of morphine and requires immediate intervention, typically with naloxone administration. A respiratory rate of 8 breaths per minute indicates significant respiratory depression. While sedation, constipation, and nausea are common opioid side effects, respiratory depression is the most concerning because it can progress to respiratory arrest.

QUESTION 8 SINGLE CHOICE

A nurse is teaching a patient who is starting isoniazid therapy for tuberculosis. Which supplement should the nurse instruct the patient to take concurrently to prevent a common adverse effect?

- ☐ A Vitamin C
- ☒ B Vitamin B6 (pyridoxine)
- ☐ C Vitamin D
- ☐ D Vitamin K

ANSWER B

WHY Isoniazid is associated with peripheral neuropathy as an adverse effect due to its depletion of vitamin B6 (pyridoxine). To prevent this, patients are routinely prescribed pyridoxine supplementation during isoniazid therapy. Vitamin C, D, and K are not specifically indicated for prevention of isoniazid-related adverse effects.

QUESTION 9

MULTIPLE CHOICE

A patient is taking a monoamine oxidase inhibitor (MAOI) for depression. Which foods should the nurse teach the patient to avoid? (Choose two.)

- ☒ **A** Aged cheese
- ☐ **B** Fresh apples
- ☒ **C** Smoked or cured meats
- ☐ **D** Plain white rice

ANSWER A • C

WHY Patients taking MAOIs must avoid tyramine-rich foods because tyramine can trigger a hypertensive crisis when MAO is inhibited. Aged cheese and smoked/cured meats are high in tyramine. Fresh apples and plain white rice are not significant sources of tyramine and are safe to consume. Other tyramine-rich foods to avoid include red wine, fermented soy products, and certain fermented foods.