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*Medical-Surgical-Nurse  
Medical-Surgical-Nurse Certification Exam*

## Questions & Answers PDF

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## Question: 1

Which assessment tool for dementia involves remembering and repeating the names of 3 common objects and drawing the face of a clock with all 12 numbers and hands indicating the time specified by the examiner?

- A. Mini-mental state exam (MMSE)
- B. Mini-cog
- C. Digit Repetition Test
- D. Confusion Assessment Method

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The Mini-cog test assesses dementia by having patients remember and repeat 3 common objects and draw a clock face indicating a particular time. The MM SE assesses dementia through a series of tests, including remembering the names of 3 common objects, counting backward, naming, providing location, copying shapes, and following directions. The Digit Repetition Test assesses attention by asking the patient to repeat a 2-number series, then 3, then 4 and so on. The Confusion Assessment Method is used to assess delirium, not dementia.

## Question: 2

A 66-year-old male on Medicare is being discharged home. He has an open, draining abdominal wound that he is unable to care for independently because of poor vision. His 14-year-old grandson lives with him. The best solution is:

- A. transferring the patient to an extended care facility.
- B. keeping the patient in the hospital until the wound has healed.
- C. teaching the man's 14-year-old grandson to provide wound care.
- D. making a referral to a home health agency to provide in-home care,

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Making a referral to a home health agency to provide in-home care is the best solution, as this ensures that the man will receive skilled nursing care and still be able to stay at home with his grandson, who is too young for the responsibility of wound care. This is a more cost-effective solution than transferring the patient to an extended care facility. Keeping the patient in the hospital is not generally an option, as Medicare will not pay for extended hospitalization for long-term wound treatment.

### Question: 3

When preparing materials to teach a 28-year-old male auto mechanic about wound care, the first thing the nurse should do is:

- A. prepare an audiotape.
- B. b, prepare visual materials, such a pictures and diagrams.
- C. assess the patient's learning style.
- D. prepare manipulatives, as mechanics are kinesthetic learners.

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

The nurse should first assess the patient's learning style. Patients often know how they like to learn, or are able to provide enough information for the nurse to determine their learning styles. Audiotapes are appropriate for auditory learners, and pictures and diagrams for visual learners. While auto mechanics are usually good with their hands. the nurse should not assume that the patient has a particular learning style simply because of his profession or occupation.

### Question: 4

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates:

- A. patient right to privacy.
- B. b, disposal methods for sharps, such as needles.
- C. reimbursement for services.
- D. patient surveys.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulates workplace safety, including disposal methods for sharps, such as needles. OSHA requires that standard precautions be used at all times and that staff be trained to use precautions. OSHA requires procedures for post-exposure evaluation and treatment, and the availability of the hepatitis B vaccine for healthcare workers. OSHA regulates occupational exposure to infections, and establishes standards to prevent the spread of blood-borne pathogens, as well as regulating the fitting and use of respirators.

### Question: 5

A patient with end-stage bone cancer has elected hospice and palliative care. The patient is experiencing severe bone pain from a tumor, and the physician orders radiotherapy to reduce the tumor's size and to reduce pain. Is this treatment acceptable under hospice care criteria?

- A. No, the patient has elected to forego curative treatment, so Medicare will not pay for the radiotherapy
- B. No, the patient needs to be removed from hospice care first
- C. Yes, hospice recommends only palliative care but curative treatment is acceptable
- D. Yes, if the purpose of the treatment is to relieve pain, it is essentially palliative

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

Palliative care provides comfort rather than curative treatment. although curative treatment may also relieve pain or symptoms. Thus, there is no clear line between the Palliative care is meant to improve the quality of life and to relieve suffering, but it does not include treatments solely intended to prolong life or hasten death. The goals of palliative care are to provide adequate pain management and relief of symptoms (such as nausea or shortness of breath), to provide support for both the patient and caregivers or family. and to ensure that patients and family receive psychosocial, spiritual, and bereavement support.

### Question: 6

A patient has developed a pressure ulcer over the left ischial tuberosity. The ulcerated area is exposed with loss of epidermis and dermis, and underlying fatty tissue is visible but no muscle, tendons, ligaments, cartilage, or bones. Some slough is present, and there is undermining of 2 cm extending from 1 to 3 O'clock. Using the National Pressure Injury Advisory Panel (NPIAP) Staging System, the wound would be classified as:

- A. stage II.
- B. stage III.
- C. stage IV.
- D. unstageable.

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

If a patient has developed a pressure ulcer over the left ischial tuberosity; the ulcerated area is exposed with a loss of epidermis and dermis; underlying fatty tissue is visible but no muscle, tendons, ligaments, or bones are visible: and some slough is present with undermining of 2 cm extending from 1 to 3 O'clock, according to the NPIAP Staging System this wound would be classified as stage III. It becomes stage IV when bone, muscle, ligaments, cartilage, or tendons are visible. An unstageable ulcer is one in which the wound is covered by slough or eschar that obscures the wound.

### Question: 7

The nurse is forming an interdisciplinary team to review processes as part of the mission to improve quality. When choosing team members, which of the following should have priority?

- A. Personality
- B. Skills and knowledge
- C. Eagerness to participate

D. Personal friendly relationship

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

If the nurse is forming an interdisciplinary team to review processes as part of the mission to improve quality, when choosing team members, the skills and knowledge of the person should be the priority. It can be tempting to include those with whom the nurse has a personal friendly relationship or who are eager to participate, but these people may not be the best suited. The nurse should make a list of the characteristics needed (knowledge of processes, good communication, well-organized, reliable) and look for staff members that have those characteristics.

### Question: 8

A patient is very confused and disoriented and insists that the sound of an ambulance is actually someone screaming. What is the best nurse response?

- A. "That sound was an ambulance siren."
- B. "No one is screaming."
- C. "How about if I turn on the TV for you?"
- D. "She has stopped screaming now, so everything's Ok"

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

When a patient is confused and disoriented, the best response is to say what is true. State, "That sound is an ambulance siren." calmly and without arguing. Saying "No one is screaming" challenges the patient without explanation and may increase confusion. Distracting the patient may be helpful after the explanation, but this should not be the first response. Saying "She has stopped screaming now, so everything's Ok" reinforces the patient's faulty perception and does nothing to alleviate confusion. Note: A patient confused and disoriented due to transient illness is very different from one suffering with acute delusions or paranoia from chronic mental illness such as schizophrenia. A confused patient needs clarification and re-orientation, while a paranoid and/or delusional patient may become angry or even violent if their perceptions are negated.

### Question: 9

A 60-year-old male is being treated for a myocardial infarction. While he is progressing well physically, he becomes upset when asked to make independent decisions and he rings the call bell constantly asking for reassurance that he will get well. This psychological response to stress is an example of:

- A. dependence.
- B. passivity.
- C. depression.
- D. confusion.

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**Answer: A**

Explanation:

This patient is exhibiting dependence in response to stress. Typical psychological responses to stress include:

Dependence: The patient has an inability to make decisions, requires constant reassurance, and calls nurses/families frequently.

Depression: The patient is withdrawn and sad, fails to take treatments and/or misses appointments, and may be at risk for suicide.

Anger: The patient is belligerent, uncooperative, and blames others.

Confusion: The patient is forgetful, disoriented, and bewildered.

Passivity: The patient defers to others, feeling he/she has no control.

### Question: 10

If using Lean Six Sigma as a method for performance improvement, the focus is likely going to be on:

- A. improving staff training.
- B. engaging in the community.
- C. flattening the hierarchical structure.
- D. reducing error and waste.

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

If using Lean Six Sigma as a method for performance improvement, the focus is likely going to be on reducing error and waste. Process improvement is based on strategic goals rather than on a project-by-project basis, and it focuses on continuous learning and rapid change. Characteristics include long-term goals and strategies for a 1—3 year period, performance improvement as an underlying belief, cost reduction, and use of improvement methodologies (such as plan-do-check-act).



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