Chapter 6: The Nursing Process in Pharmacology

**Question 1**

**Type: MCSA**

The nurse follows the nursing process when conducting medication education about insulin. The step of evaluation is best demonstrated by which question?

1. “Is your abdomen the best place to inject insulin?”
2. “What questions do you have about insulin?”
3. “Can you recognize when you are experiencing hypoglycemia?”
4. “Can you tell me four points you remember about how to take your insulin?”

Correct Answer: 4

**Rationale 1:** Asking the patient what questions she has about insulin is an assessment question.

**Rationale 2:** Asking the patient what questions she has about insulin is an assessment question.

**Rationale 3:** Asking the patient if she can recognize when she is experiencing hypoglycemia is an assessment question.

**Rationale 4:** The nurse is evaluating the effectiveness of medication education by asking the patient for feedback from the education provided.

**Global Rationale:** The nurse is evaluating the effectiveness of medication education by asking the patient for feedback from the education provided. Asking the patient what questions she has about insulin is an assessment question. Asking the patient if her abdomen is the best place to inject insulin is an assessment question. Asking the patient if she can recognize when she is experiencing hypoglycemia is an assessment question.

**Cognitive Level:** Applying

**Client Need:** Physiological Integrity

**Client Need Sub:** Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.A.1 Integrate understanding of multiple dimensions of patient centered care: patient/family/community preferences, values; coordination and integration of care; information, communication, and education; physical comfort and emotional support; involvement of family and friends; and transition and continuity.

AACN Essentials Competencies: III.1 Explain the interrelationships among theory, practice, and research.


Learning Outcome: 6-1 Compare and contrast the different steps of the nursing process.

MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.

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**Question 2**

Type: MCMA

The nurse assesses the patient with diabetes mellitus prior to administering medications. Which questions are important to ask the patient?

Note: Credit will be given only if all correct choices and no incorrect choices are selected.

Standard Text: Select all that apply.

1. “Are you allergic to any medications?”
2. “Are you taking any herbal or over-the-counter medications?”
3. “How difficult is it for you to maintain your ideal body weight?”
4. “Will you please tell me about the kind of diet you follow?”
5. “What other medications are you currently taking?”

Correct Answer: 1,2,4,5

Rationale 1: Questions about allergies are important during assessment.

Rationale 2: Questions about herbal and OTC medications are an important part of assessment.

Rationale 3: Ideal body is an important question, but does not refer specifically to medication administration.
Rationale 4: Questions about normal diet help to assess health management and are pertinent to drug administration.

Rationale 5: Questions about current medication are important during assessment.

Global Rationale: Questions about allergies and which medications are being taken are assessment questions. Questions about normal diet help to assess health management and are pertinent to drug administration. Ideal body weight is an important question but does not refer specifically to medication administration.

Cognitive Level: Applying

Client Need: Physiological Integrity

Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies

QSEN Competencies: I.A.1 Integrate understanding of multiple dimensions of patient centered care: patient/family/community preferences, values; coordination and integration of care; information, communication, and education; physical comfort and emotional support; involvement of family and friends; and transition and continuity.

AACN Essentials Competencies: IX.1 Conduct comprehensive and focused physical, behavioral, psychological, spiritual, socioeconomic, and environmental assessments of health and illness parameters in patients, using developmentally and culturally appropriate approaches.

NLN Competencies: Relationship Centered Care: Factors that contribute to or threaten health.

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Assessment

Learning Outcome: 6-2 Identify health history questions to ask during the assessment phase that are pertinent to medication administration.

MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.

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**Question 3**

Type: MCSA

The physician has prescribed a nitroglycerine (Nitrodur) patch for the patient. What is the best outcome for this patient as it relates to use of the medication?

1. Patient will be able to identify the expiration date of the medication prior to discharge.
2. Patient will verbalize three side effects of the medication prior to discharge.
3. Patient will state the reason for receiving the medication prior to discharge.
4. Patient will demonstrate correct application of the patch prior to discharge.
Correct Answer: 4
Rationale 1: The patient does not need to identify the expiration date of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch.
Rationale 2: The patient does not need to identify side effects of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch. The patient does not need to state the reason for the medication in order to correctly apply the patch. The patient does not need to identify the expiration date of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch.
Rationale 3: The patient does not need to state the reason for the medication in order to correctly apply the patch.
Rationale 4: The overall goal of nursing care related to pharmacotherapy is the safe and effective administration of medication. In this instance, the most important aspect of patient teaching is that the patient be able to correctly apply the patch. If the patch is not correctly applied, the other issues are irrelevant. The patient does not need to identify side effects of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch. The patient does not need to identify the expiration date of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch.
Global Rationale: The overall goal of nursing care related to pharmacotherapy is the safe and effective administration of medication. In this instance, the most important aspect of patient teaching is that the patient be able to correctly apply the patch. If the patch is not correctly applied, the other issues are irrelevant. The patient does not need to identify side effects of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch. The patient does not need to state the reason for the medication in order to correctly apply the patch. The patient does not need to identify the expiration date of the medication in order to correctly apply the patch.
Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.
Question 4
Type: MCSA
The patient is receiving albuterol (Proventil) for treatment of bronchospasm related to asthma. What is the primary nursing intervention as it relates to this medication?
1. Monitor the patient for relief of bronchospasms.
2. Monitor the patient for nausea and headache.
3. Monitor the patient’s serum drug levels.
4. Provide the patient with age-appropriate education about albuterol (Proventil).
Correct Answer: 1
Rationale 1: Monitoring drug effects, in this case, the relief of bronchospasms, is a primary intervention that nurses perform.
Rationale 2: Nausea and headache are expected side effects, but monitoring for these side effects is not part of the primary intervention.
Rationale 3: Monitoring of serum drug levels for albuterol (Proventil) is not indicated.
Rationale 4: Education about medication is important but is not part of the primary intervention.
Global Rationale: Monitoring drug effects, in this case, the relief of bronchospasms, is a primary intervention that nurses perform. Nausea and headache are expected side effects, but monitoring for these side effects is not part of the primary intervention. Education about medication is important but is not part of the primary intervention. Monitoring of serum drug levels for albuterol (Proventil) is not indicated.
Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
A nurse is working with a patient who has cellulitis of the lower extremity and is receiving an oral antibiotic. The patient's outcome is “Patient will state a key point about antibiotic treatment for cellulitis.” Which statement would the nurse evaluate as best indicating this outcome has been met?

1. “If the pain gets too bad, I can take my prescribed pain medication.”
2. “If the swelling continues, I can apply an ice pack.”
3. “I need to take all the pills even if my leg looks better.”
4. “I must keep my leg elevated until the swelling goes down.”

Correct Answer: 3

Rationale 1: Taking pain medication does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment.

Rationale 2: Applying an ice pack does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment.

Rationale 3: Taking all the medication even if the leg looks better is a key point about antibiotic therapy and meets the patient’s outcome.

Rationale 4: Keeping the leg elevated does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment.
Global Rationale: Taking all the medication even if the leg looks better is a key point about antibiotic therapy and meets the patient’s outcome. Keeping the leg elevated does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment. Applying an ice pack does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment. Taking pain medication does not address the outcome for antibiotic treatment.

Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.
NLN Competencies: Quality and Safety: Contribute to assessment of outcome achievement.
Learning Outcome: 6-6 Explain the importance of the evaluation phase of the nursing process as applied to pharmacotherapy.
MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.
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**Question 6**
Type: MCSA
The physician has prescribed quetiapine (Seroquel) for the patient with chronic auditory hallucinations. The patient has stopped taking the medication. The nurse incorrectly uses the diagnosis of “noncompliance.” In which situation would this diagnosis be appropriate?
1. The patient reported a physical change as the reason for stopping the medication.
2. The patient made an informed decision not to take the medication.
3. The patient was unsure about how to order a refill for the prescription.
4. The patient did not understand why the medication was prescribed.
Correct Answer: 2
Rationale 1: If the patient reports a physical change as the reason for stopping the medication, the nursing diagnosis should be related to that change. For example, if
the patient reports being fatigued, the nursing diagnosis would relate to that finding.
Rationale 2: Noncompliance assumes that the patient has been properly educated about the medication and has made an informed decision not to take it.
Rationale 3: Being unsure of the way to obtain a refill on the medication is related to a knowledge deficit, not noncompliance.
Rationale 4: Not knowing why the medication was prescribed related to a knowledge deficit, not noncompliance.
Global Rationale: Noncompliance assumes that the patient has been properly educated about the medication and has made an informed decision not to take it. A lack of understanding of the reason the medication was prescribed or being unsure of how to obtain a prescription refill are related to a knowledge deficit, not noncompliance. Reports of a physical change since taking the medication would be diagnosed as pertaining to the change. Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.
NLN Competencies: Relationship Centered Care: Factors that contribute to or threaten health.
Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Diagnosis
Learning Outcome: 6-3 Describe the areas of concern relating to pharmacotherapy that should be addressed during the diagnosis phase of the nursing process. MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.
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Question 7
Type: MCSA
The nurse is preparing for medication administration to a group of patients. What is the best overall outcome for the patients?
1. Patients will take the medications after receiving medication instruction.
2. Patients will receive the best therapeutic outcome from the medications.
3. Patients will state the reason they are receiving the medications.
4. Patients will experience minimal side effects after taking the medications.
Correct Answer: 2
Rationale 1: The fact that the patient takes the medication is not the best overall outcome for the patients.
Rationale 2: Outcomes should focus first on the therapeutic outcome of the medications.
Rationale 3: Having the patients state the reason they are receiving the medications is the best overall outcome for the patients.
Rationale 4: The treatment of side effects is not the best overall outcome for the patients.
Global Rationale: Outcomes should focus first on the therapeutic outcome of the medications. The fact that the patient takes the medication is not the best overall outcome for the patients. The treatment of side effects is not the best overall outcome for the patients. Having the patients state the reason they are receiving the medications is the best overall outcome for the patients.
Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.
NLN Competencies: Knowledge and Science: Relationships between knowledge and science and quality and safe patient care.
Learning Outcome: 6-4 Identify the main components of the planning phase of the nursing process.
MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.
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Question 8
Type: MCSA
The nurse is managing care for several patients at a diabetic treatment center. What is the primary intervention for the nurse?
1. To administer the correct medicine to the correct patient at the correct dose and the correct time via the correct route
2. To return the patient to an optimum level of wellness while limiting adverse effects related to the patient’s medical diagnosis
3. To include any cultural or ethnic preferences in the administration of the medication
4. To answer any questions the patient may have about the medicine, or any possible side effect of the medication

Correct Answer: 2

Rationale 1: The correct patient, dose, and time refer to the five “rights” of medication administration and, while important, is not the best, overall nursing intervention.

Rationale 2: Interventions are aimed at returning the patient to an optimum level of wellness and limiting adverse effects related to the patient’s medical diagnosis or condition.

Rationale 3: Answering questions the patient may have is an appropriate intervention but is not the best overall intervention. While important to include cultural and ethnic preferences, this is not the best overall intervention.

Rationale 4: Answering questions the patient may have is an appropriate intervention but is not the best overall intervention.

Global Rationale: Interventions are aimed at returning the patient to an optimum level of wellness and limiting adverse effects related to the patient’s medical diagnosis or condition. The correct patient, dose, and time refer to the five “rights” of medication administration and, while important, is not the best, overall nursing intervention. Answering questions the patient may have is an appropriate intervention but is not the best overall intervention. While important to include cultural and ethnic preferences, this is not the best overall intervention.

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Physiological Integrity

Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies

QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.

NLN Competencies: Knowledge and Science: Relationships between knowledge and science and quality and safe patient care.

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation Learning Outcome: 6-5 Discuss key nursing interventions required in the implementation phase of the nursing process for patients receiving medications.

MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.

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**Question 9**
Type: MCSA
What is the most significant role for nurses as defined by state nurse practice acts and by regulating bodies such as The Joint Commission?
1. Planning care
2. Teaching
3. Assessment
4. Evaluating care
Correct Answer: 2

Rationale 1: Planning is important but not the most significant role of the nurse according to state nurse practice acts and Joint Commission.

Rationale 2: State nurse practice acts and regulating bodies such as the Joint Commission consider teaching to be a primary role for nurses, giving it the weight of law and key important accreditation standards.

Rationale 3: State nurse practice acts and regulating bodies such as the Joint Commission consider teaching to be a primary role for nurses. Assessment is important but not the most significant role of the nurse according to state nurse practice acts and Joint Commission.

Rationale 4: Evaluation is important but not the most significant role of the nurse according to state nurse practice acts and Joint Commission.

Global Rationale: State nurse practice acts and regulating bodies such as the Joint Commission consider teaching to be a primary role for nurses, giving it the weight of law and key important accreditation standards. Assessment, planning, and
evaluation are important but not the most significant roles of the nurse according to state nurse practice acts and Joint Commission.
Cognitive Level: Applying
Client Need: Physiological Integrity
Client Need Sub: Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies
QSEN Competencies: I.B.3 Provide patient-centered care with sensitivity and respect for the diversity of human experience.
AACN Essentials Competencies: III.6 Integrate evidence, clinical judgment, interprofessional perspectives, and patient preferences in planning, implementing, and evaluating outcomes of care.
NLN Competencies: Knowledge and Science: Relationships between knowledge and science and quality and safe patient care.
Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation Learning Outcome: 6-5 Discuss key nursing interventions required in the implementation phase of the nursing process for patients receiving medications. MNL Learning Outcome: 1.2.1 Apply the five steps of the nursing process as it relates to pharmacotherapy.
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Question 10
Type: MCSA
The Joint Commission documented that patient education was deficient on several medical-surgical units of a local hospital. A nursing committee was formed to address this problem and focused on what likely nursing intervention?
1. Providing educational pamphlets about medications to the patients.
2. Asking the physicians to provide medication education to the patients.
3. Discussing medications each time they are administered to patients.
4. Requesting more frequent pharmacy consults for the patients.
Correct Answer: 3
Rationale 1: Educational pamphlets can be effective but are not as effective as the nurse providing education to the patient.