

NURSING COUNCIL OF NEW ZEALAND

Sample questions for the registered nurse
state final examination

The multiple-choice questions have four options. Choose one answer which should be the best option for each question.

Answer all questions as if you were working in the capacity of a registered nurse.

Part A: Medicine Calculations

Q1. A patient has been prescribed morphine 8mg 2-3 hourly PRN for pain. Unit stock of morphine is 10mg/1mL. How much morphine should be drawn up for the patient?

- A. 0.08mL
 - B. 0.25mL
 - C. 0.75mL
 - D. 0.80mL
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Q2. A child weighs 22.4kg, and the prescription is for 24mg/kg of body weight. The medication comes at the strength of 50mg/mL. How many mL (to one decimal place) of the medication should the child receive?

- A. 7.5mL
 - B. 8.5mL
 - C. 9.8mL
 - D. 10.8mL
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Q3. Ondansetron 2mg has been prescribed for a child who weighs 13.6kg. The safe dosage of this medication is 0.15mg/kg. Is 2mg a safe dose?

- A. No, a safe dose would be 0.3mg
 - B. No, a safe dose would be 0.6mg
 - C. No, a safe dose would be 1.02mg
 - D. Yes, 2mg is a safe dose
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Q4. A patient is prescribed 250mg of antibiotics in 200mL of intravenous fluid over 30 minutes. The correct rate in mL per hour to set the infusion device is

- A. 100mL per hour
- B. 200mL per hour
- C. 400mL per hour
- D. 500mL per hour

Q5. How many mg is 5000mcg?

- A. 0.5mg
 - B. 5mg
 - C. 50mg
 - D. 500mg
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Q6. A patient is prescribed 125mg of a medication. The ampule contains 400mg/4mL. How many mL will you administer?

- A. 0.8mL
 - B. 1mL
 - C. 1.25mL
 - D. 1.5mL
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Q7. A patient is prescribed 1g of paracetamol. The available tablets contain 500mg each. How many tablets will you administer?

- A. 1 tablet
 - B. 1.5 tablets
 - C. 2 tablets
 - D. 2.5 tablets
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Q8. A patient's intravenous normal saline infusion of 1000mL is to be completed in 8 hours' time. The drop factor of the giving set is 15 drops per mL. How many drops per minute are required to finish the infusion on time?

- A. 11 drops per minute
 - B. 15 drops per minute
 - C. 31 drops per minute
 - D. 35 drops per minute
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Part B: Nursing Knowledge

Q9. The role of the Nursing Council of New Zealand is to

- A. protect the unregulated and regulated health workforce.
 - B. regulate doctors to protect public safety.
 - C. regulate nursing to protect public safety.
 - D. protect the nursing workforce.
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Q10. A mother asks you why her child needs to be weighed before a scheduled surgery. What is your best response?

- A. "Surgery is not carried out on children above the ideal body weight."
 - B. "We need to compare your child's weight before and after the procedure."
 - C. "Medication doses for children are often based on weight to ensure safety."
 - D. "It is routine for all paediatric admissions."
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Q11. Prior to surgery a patient is to have nothing to eat or drink. This is necessary to

- A. assist in the proper absorption of the anaesthetic.
 - B. prevent nausea and vomiting immediately after surgery.
 - C. avoid the danger of inhaling the stomach contents (aspiration).
 - D. avoid incontinence during surgery.
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Q12. A person with asthma arrives at the emergency department and is visibly distressed, coughing and with audible wheeze. Why are they prescribed salbutamol (beta-adrenergic agonist)?

- A. To dilate the airways.
 - B. To reduce secondary infections.
 - C. To decrease postnasal drip.
 - D. To reduce airway inflammation.
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Q13. A patient has had a myocardial infarction involving a large section of the heart muscle. You assess them at risk for

- A.** hypovolaemic shock.
 - B.** cardiogenic shock.
 - C.** metabolic shock.
 - D.** neurogenic shock.
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Q14. What may a person experience in a hypomanic phase of a bipolar mood disorder?

- A.** Hallucinations, fatigue, anhedonia.
 - B.** Social withdrawal, decreased self-esteem, obsessive thoughts.
 - C.** Elevated mood, reduced need for sleep, irritability.
 - D.** Increased activity, increased need for sleep, pressured speech.
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Q15. Furosemide (a diuretic) has been prescribed for a patient with congestive heart failure. The prescriber has not signed the medication chart. You should

- A.** double check the medication with a senior registered nurse.
 - B.** contact the prescriber to sign the prescription.
 - C.** give the furosemide, sign for it and inform the nurse manager.
 - D.** ask your nurse manager to sign the prescription, then give it.
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Q16. A resident/patient in an aged care facility/rest home/nursing home frequently apologises for being so much trouble to the staff. Your best response would be to

- A.** talk to them about something else to distract them.
 - B.** listen to them and acknowledge their concerns.
 - C.** contact their family to visit and keep them company.
 - D.** tell them to stop apologising.
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- Q17. A patient tells you they do not want to have the prescribed enoxaparin sodium injection. Your first response would be to
- A.** inform them they must have the injection as it has been prescribed.
 - B.** reassure them that it is prescribed for everyone who has a surgical procedure.
 - C.** accept that they do not want the injection.
 - D.** ask what concerns them about having the injection.
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- Q18. A patient has been admitted with symptoms of alcohol withdrawal. What is your main responsibility to them during their medical detoxification?
- A.** Administer fluids via a naso-gastric tube to maintain hydration.
 - B.** Don't disturb the patient so they can sleep.
 - C.** Prepare to physically restrain them if necessary.
 - D.** Keep the person safe and monitor for any deterioration.
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- Q19. After surgery a patient has a morphine infusion running at the maximum prescribed rate of 15mg per hour. When you conduct a pain assessment, they say the pain is unbearable and they are obviously distressed. You should
- A.** increase the infusion rate to 20mg per hour.
 - B.** reassess the pain and contact the doctor to review the patient's medication.
 - C.** help the patient to relax and reassure them that the pain will go.
 - D.** give the patient two paracetamol tablets and reassess them in half an hour.
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- Q20. An older adult patient is admitted with confusion, fever, urinary urgency, dysuria, and foul-smelling urine. The most likely differential diagnosis is
- A.** a urinary tract infection (UTI).
 - B.** delirium from dehydration.
 - C.** adverse effects from medications.
 - D.** an electrolyte imbalance.
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- Q21. You are visiting a patient at their home. A neighbour stops you and asks for information about the patient's condition. Your best response is to
- A.** tell them how the patient is, then inform the patient you have talked to their neighbour.
 - B.** tell them how the patient is, as long as the disclosure is not contrary to the patient's wishes.
 - C.** ask the patient to contact their neighbour so they can give them an update.
 - D.** explain that you can't disclose any information for privacy reasons.
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- Q22. Which of these is a legal right of a person admitted under the Mental Health (Compulsory Assessment and Treatment) Act 1992?
- A.** Right to refuse treatment and care.
 - B.** Right to receive information about their status.
 - C.** Right to self discharge against medical advice.
 - D.** Right to choose their mental healthcare provider.
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- Q23. One of your responsibilities when caring for a patient in the post-operative phase is to observe for signs of haemorrhage. The type of shock resulting from haemorrhage is
- A.** hypovolaemic.
 - B.** vasogenic.
 - C.** neurogenic.
 - D.** cardiogenic.
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