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Preventing Medical Errors

1. A medical error may refer to an unpreventable adverse effect of care that is evident and causes harm to a patient.

A. True B. False

2. According to the Joint Commission, how can health care professionals improve the accuracy of patient identification?

A. Always use one patient identifier when providing care, treatment, or services.
B. Use at least two patient identifiers when administering medications, blood, or blood components.

C. Label containers used for blood and other specimens after leaving the presence of a patient.

D. Avoid labeling containers used for blood.

3. According to the Joint Commission, health care professionals should label all medications, medication containers, and other solutions on and off the sterile field in perioperative and other procedural settings.

A. True B. False

4. Which of the following may be considered a Joint Commission recommendation regarding the prevention of central line-associated bloodstream infections?

A. Prior to insertion of a central venous catheter, educate patients and, as needed, their families about central line-associated bloodstream infection prevention.

B. Avoid sterile barrier precautions during central venous catheter insertion.

C. For adult patients, always insert catheters into the femoral vein.

D. Evaluate all central venous catheters routinely but never remove nonessential catheters.

5. Which of the following may be considered a Joint Commission recommendation regarding the identification of safety risks inherent in patient populations?

A. Conduct a risk assessment that identifies specific patient characteristics and environmental features that may increase or decrease the risk for suicide only if the patient is over the age of 65.

B. Conduct a risk assessment that identifies specific patient characteristics and environmental features that may increase or decrease the risk for suicide only if the patient is under the age of 65.

C. When a patient at risk for suicide leaves the care of the hospital, provide suicide prevention information to the patient and his or her family.

D. When a patient at risk for suicide leaves the care of the hospital, do not provide suicide prevention information to the patient or his or her family.

6. Which of the following may be considered a Joint Commission recommendation regarding procedure verification?

A. A patient should never be involved in the verification process.

B. A patient should never be involved in the verification process, unless the patient is over 65 years of age.

C. Match the items that are to be available in the procedure area to the health care professionals involved in the procedure.

D. Match the items that are to be available in the procedure area to the patient.

7. In regards to hand hygiene, what is the recommended duration for a handwashing procedure using soap and water?

A. 5 - 10 seconds B. 10 - 15 seconds C. 20 - 30 seconds D. 40 - 60 seconds

8. Which of the following statements is most accurate?

A. Goggles are typically worn with a mask.

B. Goggles are typically worn in place of a mask.

C. To effectively remove goggles from the face, a health care professional should take off the goggles from the front by lifting the goggle's band and pulling them down. D. To effectively remove goggles from the face, a health care professional should take off the goggles from the front by lifting the goggle's band and pulling them up.

9. A 70-year-old male patient is initiated on Coumadin therapy. The patient has questions regarding his Coumadin therapy. Which of the following counseling points should be expressed to the patient regarding Coumadin?

A. Coumadin is a factor Xa inhibitor anticoagulant medication.

B. Coumadin is contraindicated in patients with a creatinine clearance <30mL/min.

C. Coumadin requires INR monitoring.

D. Other medications and dietary changes do not typically affect INR levels achieved with Coumadin therapy.

10. Fall precautions should only be applied to patients over the age of 65.

A. True

B. False

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