

# Test bank for High Acuity Nursing 7th Edition

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### Chapter 1. High-Acuity Nursing

#### Question 1

Type: MCSA

The patient who had surgery yesterday reports his chest feels tight. Assessment reveals respiratory rate of 29, inspiratory wheezes, stridor, and an oxygenation saturation of 80%. The nurse would consider this patient to be which priority for transfer to the intensive care unit (ICU)?

1. Priority 1
2. Priority 2
3. Priority 3
4. Priority 4

Correct Answer: 1

Rationale 1: This patient is exhibiting signs of an acute respiratory event for which intubation or other intensive treatment may be necessary. Priority 1 patients are acutely ill and need intensive treatment and monitoring not provided outside of the ICU.

Rationale 2: Priority 2 refers to patients needing intensive monitoring and may potentially need additional interventions. They are typically not evolving an acute event as is the case with this patient.

Rationale 3: Priority 3 patients are critically ill but have little chance of recovery from their illnesses. Limits are placed on therapeutic interventions and they can be cared for in areas other than the ICU if necessary.

Rationale 4: Priority 4 patients have no signs or symptoms that indicate intensive monitoring or treatment are necessary.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Planning

Learning Outcome: 1-1

#### Question 2

Type: MCSA

The daughter of a patient who is dying questions the placement of her father on the medicalsurgical care unit (MSCU). She requests he be placed in the intensive care unit (ICU) because of concern her father may not receive close observation on a busy hospital unit. Which action is indicated by the nurse?

1. Notify the intensive care unit of an impending transfer.
2. Tell the daughter that her father does not meet criteria for placement in the more expensive ICU.
3. Discuss the care that can be provided on the unit with the family member.
4. Contact the physician.

Correct Answer: 3

Rationale 1: The nurse cannot make this transfer decision independently.

Rationale 2: Telling the daughter that her father does not meet criteria for transfer is not therapeutic. Bringing up the issue of cost may cause the daughter to offer to pay the difference between the costs of the two units. This would create a serious ethical dilemma.

Rationale 3: The best initial response is to help the daughter understand the level of care and observation that will be provided on the MSCU so as to help her understand that her father's care will be a priority.

Rationale 4: The nurse should try to intervene in this situation before involving the physician.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation

Learning Outcome: 1-1

Question 3

Type: MCSA

A nurse who is contemplating taking a position in an intensive care unit is reviewing her strengths and weaknesses. Which characteristics of the nurse will be of the greatest benefit in the intensive care environment?

1. Feels comfortable in ever changing situations
2. Closely evaluates the pros and cons of each decision for a long period of time before making a decision
3. Is quiet and introverted
4. Is excited about all new experiences

Correct Answer: 1

Rationale 1: The nurse in the intensive care unit must be open to ever-changing situations. The nurse must be flexible.

Rationale 2: The rapid changes in the intensive care unit do not allow for extended time when considering actions.

Rationale 3: A quiet and introverted nurse may not be a good match for the high paced high-acuity care unit due to the need for teamwork and interaction.

Rationale 4: Excitement about all experiences is a beneficial characteristic in healthcare but is not the most important factor for this particular care unit.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Assessment

Learning Outcome: 1-2

Question 4

Type: MCSA

The registered nurse is working as charge nurse on a busy high-acuity care unit. Unexpectedly, a coworker becomes ill and needs to leave. There is a period of time in which the unit is short

staffed while the ill coworkers replacement travels in to work. What action by the charge nurse is indicated?

1. Make no changes until the replacement nurse arrives.
2. Assign the less acute patients to be cared for by the unlicensed assistive personnel.
3. Assign the unlicensed assistive personnel to watch the monitors and call for help if a patient gets into trouble.
4. Contact the house supervisor and ask for a float nurse to be sent to the unit.

Correct Answer: 4

Rationale 1: The unit is understaffed. Replacement help must be provided. It is inappropriate to wait for the replacement nurse.

Rationale 2: The unlicensed assistive personnel are only able to provide care under the direct supervision of the nurse.

Rationale 3: Watching monitors is not within the job description of the unlicensed assistive personnel and is not appropriate. The manager would be putting both patient safety and the unlicensed assistive personnel at risk.

Rationale 4: The manager should obtain help until the replacement nurse arrives. Contacting the house supervisor and asking for a temporary float nurse is the best intervention.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation

Learning Outcome: 1-2

Question 5

Type: MCSA

A recent nursing school graduate reports having an interview with a magnet hospital. When preparing for the interview, the graduate nurse researches the concept of magnet status. Which perceptions by the nurse indicate an adequate understanding?

1. Magnet status is an accreditation from the National League for Nurses.
2. Magnet status facilities pay substantial recruitment bonuses.
3. Magnet status facilities promote the interests of professional nursing.
4. Magnet status hospitals must establish nurse-to-patient ratios.

Correct Answer: 3

Rationale 1: Magnet status is a designation developed by the American Nurses Credentialing Center.

Rationale 2: Facilities with magnet designation attract nurses because of their work environment. Often there is no need to pay recruitment bonuses.

Rationale 3: Magnet status is awarded to hospitals that are able to prove their commitment to professional nursing practices.

Rationale 4: Nurse-to-patient ratios are not part of the magnet hospital designation.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment



Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Evaluation

Learning Outcome: 1-2

Question 6

Type: MCSA

A team of nurses would like to research outcomes of intensive care that expand beyond those that are normally studied. This team would recognize which outcome as most commonly studied?

1. Patient comfort
2. Patient perceived quality of life
3. Functional status
4. Mortality

Correct Answer: 4

Rationale 1: Patient comfort is a very important outcome, but is not the one most commonly studied.

Rationale 2: Quality of life after intensive care is a very important outcome, but is not the one most commonly studied.

Rationale 3: Functional status after treatment in the intensive care unit is a very important outcome, but is not the one most commonly studied.

Rationale 4: Mortality is the most commonly studied outcome of intensive care treatment.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Applying

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Assessment

Learning Outcome: 1-2

Question 7

Type: MCSA

A newly employed nurse is working with an experienced registered nurse. During the shift, the experienced nurse routinely uses her personal digital assistant. How would the nurse explain the use of this device to the novice nurse?

1. I use my PDA as a reference tool several times every day.
2. I can access my patients old medical records on this PDA.
3. I use my PDA to let the pharmacy know when I need medications.
4. I use my PDA to write nursing notes.

Correct Answer: 1

Rationale 1: The personal digital assistant (PDA) is used to provide quick bedside information to the nurse.

Rationale 2: The patients personal medical records would not be accessible through the PDA.

Rationale 3: The PDA would not be useful for this application.

Rationale 4: The nurse should not record nursing notes on the PDA.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Applying

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation

Learning Outcome: 1-3

Question 8

Type: MCSA

A nurse says, I worry that all of these machines in the intensive care unit interfere with my ability to establish a therapeutic relationship with my patients. What response by the nurse manager is indicated?

1. Technology improves our patient outcomes.
2. I completely understand how you feel.
3. There are ways to increase your interaction with your assigned patients.
4. These feelings may be a sign that this is not the work environment for you.

Correct Answer: 3

Rationale 1: Technology does improve outcomes but the nurse has more immediate concerns.

Rationale 2: Telling the nurse that you understand his feelings does little to meet his need for education.

Rationale 3: The use of technology can lead the nurse to feel distanced from the patient. There are strategies the nurse can use to personalize care. He should be reminded that the use of machines does not take away the need for nursing assessment and care.

Rationale 4: It is premature to decide that this nurse is not suited to the intensive care work environment.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Evaluation

Learning Outcome: 1-3

Question 9

Type: MCSA

A recently hired nurse has been overheard saying she does not need to check as closely on her assigned patients as there are many machines that will just do it for you. What action by the nurse manager is indicated?

1. The nurse manager should plan a skills check off for the nurse.
2. The nurse should have a notation placed in her file indicating a lack of due care to assigned patients.
3. The manager should issue a verbal warning to the nurse.
4. The nurse manager should discuss assessment priorities with the nurse.

Correct Answer: 4

Rationale 1: At this time the nurse has not demonstrated a lack of clinical ability and a skills check off is premature.

Rationale 2: It is premature to give a written or verbal warning to the nurse.

Rationale 3: It is premature to give a written or verbal warning to the nurse.

Rationale 4: The use of technology must be accompanied by nursing care and assessment. Failure to provide hands-on care may reflect over-reliance on technology. The nurse manager will need to assess the nurses perceptions of responsibilities related to these areas.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation

Learning Outcome: 1-3

Question 10

Type: MCSA

The nurse who transferred to the intensive care environment 6 months ago tells the nurse manager that she feels burned out. The nurse voices curiosity about how this could happen after such a short time in the unit. The charge nurses response should contain which information?

1. Burnout is not limited to long-term exposure to a work environment.
2. Burnout cannot be predicted.
3. The nurse most likely is not a good candidate for the intensive care unit.
4. The nurse is having a delayed response to change in work environment.

Correct Answer: 1

Rationale 1: Burnout may result not only from remaining in a work environment for a long period of time but also from working in a stressful environment in which a great deal of flexibility is expected and patient conditions change rapidly.

Rationale 2: Burnout can be predicted to occur in high-stress work environments.

Rationale 3: The nurse may be a good candidate to work in the intensive care unit if techniques to manage stress and feeling of burn-out are learned.

Rationale 4: There is no indication the nurse is reacting to the change itself, but rather to the stress in the new environment.

Global Rationale:

Cognitive Level: Analyzing

Client Need: Safe Effective Care Environment

Client Need Sub: Management of Care

Nursing/Integrated Concepts: Nursing Process: Implementation

Learning Outcome: 1-4

Question 11

Type: MCSA

A group of nurses have been asked to meet with the emergency department manager for stress debriefing after working an accident in which several children were killed. One of the nurses says, I dont know why this is necessary. We are all comfortable with our role in trying to save those kids. What response by the manager is indicated?

1. We need to meet so everyone can share their feelings about our response.
2. I thought we could use this situation to discuss who would be the best nurse to act as charge nurse when I am away from the department.

