Cardiac Progressive Care Unit Content Outline

Exam Objective: To measure the overall level of clinical knowledge in the area of the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit.

I. General Knowledge
   A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the Cardiovascular System
   B. Knowledge of ACLS guidelines and ability to carry out interventions
   C. Knowledge of blood and blood product administration
   D. Knowledge of acid-base balance
   E. Knowledge of signs/symptoms of bleeding at sheath site
   F. Knowledge of nursing treatment/interventions for patients who presents with sudden onset of chest pain
   G. Knowledge of how to manage multiple lines including how it relates to medication administration
   H. Knowledge of cardiac specific labs
   I. Knowledge of nursing interventions for patients with altered nutritional intake
      1. TPN administration
   J. Knowledge of nursing interventions and treatments for sudden onset of symptomatic atrial fibrillation
   K. Knowledge of cardioversion and anticoagulant therapy
   L. Knowledge of cardiac pacing, temporary or permanent

II. Cardiovascular
   A. Knowledge of anatomy and physiology of cardiovascular system
   B. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the Cardiovascular System
   C. Knowledge of assessment for post operative cardiac patients
   D. Knowledge of assessment for post cardiac procedure patients
   E. Knowledge of current ACLS guidelines
   F. Knowledge of analysis and interpretation of EKG’s
   G. Knowledge of treatment options for patients with a sudden onset of symptomatic A-fib
   H. Knowledge of appropriate interventions for sudden onset of chest pain
   I. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of bleeding at sheath site
   J. Knowledge of cardiac specific lab interpretation

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K. Knowledge of cardiac pacing including assessment
L. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to cardiac pacing

III. Pulmonary
A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the pulmonary system
B. Knowledge of pulmonary disease processes commonly seen in the cardiac PCU setting
C. Knowledge of chest tube care
D. Knowledge of signs and symptoms of air leak
E. Knowledge of suction system as it relates to chest tube and supplies to keep at bedside
F. Knowledge of nursing interventions related to chest tubes
G. Knowledge of patient education related to thoracic surgery
H. Knowledge of multiple oxygen delivery systems
   1. Nasal cannula
   2. Face mask
   3. Non-rebreather
   4. CPAP
   5. BIPAP

IV. Neurology
A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the Neurological System
B. Knowledge of fibrinolytic therapy

V. Endocrine
A. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to Endocrine System

VI. Gastrointestinal
A. Knowledge of nursing interventions for patients with altered nutritional intake
B. Knowledge of nursing interventions for GI bleed

VII. Renal
A. Knowledge of pathophysiology of the Renal System
B. Knowledge of medications used to augment renal function

VIII. Multisystem
A. Knowledge of blood and blood product administration

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B. Knowledge of appropriate interventions for sudden onset of chest pain
C. Knowledge of patient education inclusive of discharge instructions
D. Knowledge of current ACLS guidelines
E. Knowledge of pathophysiology and disease processes related to the Cardiovascular System
F. Knowledge of analysis and interpretation of EKG’s
G. Knowledge of signs/symptoms of complications cardiac procedures

IX. Cardiac Progressive Care Pharmacology

A. Knowledge of medication administration and their effects on patients
B. Knowledge of agents used for conscious sedation
C. Knowledge of reversal agents to medications used for conscious sedation
D. Knowledge of treatment options for patients with a sudden onset of symptomatic A-fib
E. Knowledge of ACLS medications including indications and dosages
F. Knowledge of medications used to effect cardiovascular status
G. Knowledge of medications commonly used in the Cardiac Progressive Care Unit
H. Knowledge of thrombolytic agents
I. Knowledge of managing multiple IV drips
J. Knowledge of fibrinolytic therapy

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