



# CEN<sup>Q&As</sup>

Certified Emergency Nurse

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### QUESTION 1

You are caring for a patient who demands to be released from the hospital immediately. The patient was admitted voluntary for an anxiety disorder. What actions should the nurse take next?

- A. Tell the patient that discharge is not possible at this time.
- B. Call the patient's family.
- C. Notify the physician.
- D. Persuade the patient to stay.

Correct Answer: C

The nurse would need to notify the physician that the patient is requesting discharge. The patient came into the hospital voluntary and has the right to request discharge. The physician will need to evaluate the patient and determine if the patient can be discharged or should be converted to an involuntary admission.

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### QUESTION 2

You are preparing to give potassium chloride 30 mEq in 1000 ml of normal saline over 10 hours. The medication label reads 40 mEq per 20 mL. How many milliliters of potassium chloride do you need to administer the correct dose?

- A. 10 mL
- B. 15 mL
- C. 20 mL
- D. 50 mL

Correct Answer: B

The nurse would prepare 15 ml of potassium chloride.

Desired dose: 30 mEq

Available concentration: 40 mEq (Units) per 20 mL (Volume)

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### QUESTION 3

You are encouraging your postoperative patient to cough and take deep breaths. The patient questions why it is so important to do this. Your response would include the understanding that retaining pulmonary secretions can lead to:

- A. Fluid imbalance
- B. Carbon dioxide retention
- C. Pulmonary edema



D. Pneumonia

Correct Answer: D

Coughing and deep breath exercises help prevent pneumonia in the postoperative patient. Pneumonia is inflammation of lung tissue that causes productive cough, dyspnea and crackles. Postoperative complications related to pneumonia can be prevented if the patient is encouraged to cough and breathe deeply.

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#### QUESTION 4

You are caring for the child who has had a tonsillectomy. The physician has written postoperative orders. Which of the following orders would the nurse question?

- A. Clear, cool liquids when awake
- B. No milk or milk products
- C. Monitor for bleeding
- D. Suction every 2 hours

Correct Answer: D

You would not want to suction a patient who just had a tonsillectomy. Suction equipment should be available at bedside in case of airway obstruction. Otherwise, a patient would not be suctioned due to the risk of trauma to the oropharynx. All other orders listed are appropriate for this patient.

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#### QUESTION 5

Your patient complains that they have been feeling faint when they attempt to get out of bed in the morning. They have been taking thioridazine hydrochloride (Mellaril). What side effect is this patient experiencing?

- A. Psychosomatic disorder
- B. Cardiac dysrhythmia
- C. Respiratory insufficiency
- D. Postural hypotension

Correct Answer: D

The patient is experiencing postural hypotension. Thioridazine hydrochloride (Mellaril) is an antipsychotic medication that frequently causes postural hypotension. The patient needs to be taught to rise from bed slowly to prevent harm from this medication.

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