



# USMLE-STEP-2<sup>Q&As</sup>

United States Medical Licensing Step 2

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**QUESTION 1**

Select the appropriate incubation period of the Pertussis infectious disease of childhood.

- A. 16 days
- B. 78 days
- C. 810 days
- D. 1021 days
- E. 3050 days
- F. 120180 days

Correct Answer: C

The incubation period for diphtheria is 17 days. The incubation period for chicken pox is 1021 days, average 14. Infectious mononucleosis, caused by the Epstein-Barr virus, has an estimated incubation period of 3050 days. The incubation period following infection by the mumps virus is usually 1618 days but, like chicken pox, may vary from 14 to 25 days. Pertussis has a shorter incubation period, usually 710 days, with a variation of 421 days. The usual period from contamination with tetanus spores to clinical symptoms is generally 68 days. For rubella, the incubation period is from 14 to 21 days, but usually ranges from 16 to 18 days.

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**QUESTION 2**

Identify the following personality disorders with the symptoms listed below. Unwilling to take personal risks; perceives self as inept, unappealing, inferior

- A. antisocial
- B. avoidant
- C. borderline
- D. dependent
- E. histrionic
- F. narcissistic
- G. obsessive-compulsive
- H. paranoid
- I. schizoid
- J. schizotypal

Correct Answer: B

Persons with personality disorders are rigidly bound to the use of patterns of defense and various traits that distinguish



the disorders. All have problems with interpersonal relationships

### QUESTION 3

A 9-year-old boy has had persisting difficulties in language and interpersonal relationships since the age of 2 years, and, although he can barely read, he is able to perform arithmetic calculations at the fifth-grade level.

Select the diagnosis with which it is most likely to be associated.

- A. childhood depression
- B. childhood schizophrenia
- C. conduct disorder
- D. ADHD
- E. infantile autism

Correct Answer: E

Infantile autism, called a pervasive developmental disorder in DSM-IV, typically is diagnosed when children do not demonstrate the acquisition of communication skills. Ability to form interpersonal relationships also is grossly impaired. Other behavioral manifestations of infantile autism include unusual repetitive mannerisms (e.g., spinning), marked anxiety during environmental changes, and high pain threshold. As to be expected, school performance is poor, though autistic children may display isolated areas (islands) of normal or superior intellectual functioning. Behavioral manipulation is useful in trying to contain the behavior of autistic children. Unlike infantile autism, childhood schizophrenia usually develops later in childhood and follows an intermittent course. Deterioration in social or school functioning is a characteristic presenting feature, along with hallucinations, delusions, and other manifestations of psychosis. Phenothiazine drugs offer effective treatment. Symptoms and signs of depression in children are similar to those in adults. However, children may not be able to recognize depressed feelings. Persistence of puzzling physical problems in association with apathetic, withdrawn behavior is a common presentation. The use of antidepressants is controversial; family and individual counseling often can be quite helpful. ADHD once was called hyperactivity and minimal brain dysfunction. Characteristic signs include impulsivity, distractibility, inattention in school, and (usually but not universally) hyperactivity. A variety of pharmacologic agents, including imipramine, dextroamphetamine, and methylphenidate (Ritalin), have been recommended for treatment of ADHD.

### QUESTION 4

A 50-year-old man is admitted to the hospital with a UGI bleed from acute erosive gastritis, secondary to chronic nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory use. His hematocrit is 28%. With fluid resuscitation, his blood pressure normalizes, but he has a persistent hyperdynamic precordium, tachycardia, and flow murmur on auscultation. He complains of shortness of breath on ambulation. An ECG shows depressed ST-T segments. Which of the following is the next appropriate step in management?

- A. initiation of iron supplementation therapy
- B. supplemental oxygen
- C. continued IV fluid resuscitation



D. initiation of a calcium channel blocker

E. blood transfusion

Correct Answer: C

This patient has symptomatic anemia. The decreased oxygen-carrying capacity has resulted in decreased tissue perfusion. The heart attempts to compensate with increased contractility and heart rate, in an attempt to improve cardiac output and oxygen delivery. In this patient, however, this is inadequate and has also placed excess metabolic demands on the myocardium with signs of ischemia. These changes can be ameliorated with a blood transfusion. Iron supplementation is indicated in the treatment of chronic iron-deficiency anemia. Restoration of iron stores and a normal red cell mass usually takes several months. Therefore, it is not appropriate in a patient with symptomatic anemia. Supplemental oxygen will not improve oxygen delivery in a patient with limited oxygen-carrying capacity and compensatory maximum oxygen extraction at the tissue level. IV fluid resuscitation will increase circulating blood volume, resulting in hemodilution and decreased red cell concentration. Calcium channel blockade is indicated for management of myocardial ischemia from primary coronary or myocardial pathology.

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#### QUESTION 5

You see a young mother whose child is in need of medical care. She has an income below the federal poverty level. She is eligible to receive cash payments under the Supplemental Security Income Program (SSI). As she has no health insurance, you ask a social worker to help her enroll in a program funded with state and federal tax dollars, which provides complete medical care for her child. You ask that she be enrolled in which of the following programs?

A. Medicaid

B. Medicare

C. Blue Cross/Blue Shield

D. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

E. Women, Infants, and Children program (WIC)

Correct Answer: A

Medicaid and Medicare began under federal legislation in 1966. Medicaid is a state-run program funded with federal and state tax dollars. It was established to provide medical services to the poor, with special consideration to pregnant women and small children. Although eligibility varies greatly from state to state, persons who receive SSI welfare payments are categorically eligible. Medicare is a federal program, completely financed and run by the federal government. Its purpose is to provide medical care to citizens over 65. Blue Cross/Blue Shield is a private insurance that must be purchased; the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation is a large foundation that provides grants; and the WIC program is a food supplement program for needy mothers and children.

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