



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

Certified Emergency Nurse

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**QUESTION 1**

You are caring for a patient who is becoming more aggressive. He is pacing and agitated. His speech is becoming rapid and his affect belligerent. What should the nurse's first priority be?

- A. Provide safety for the patient and other patients on the unit.
- B. Offer the patient a less stimulated area to calm down and gain control.
- C. Provide the patients on the unit with a sense of comfort and safety.
- D. Assist the staff in caring for the patient in controlled environment.

Correct Answer: A

Safety to the patient and other patients on the unit should be the nurse's first priority. The patient is showing behavior that is escalating and most likely will hurt himself or some one else if the staff does not step in immediately. Use Maslow's hierarchy of needs to prioritize which is the most immediate priority.

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**QUESTION 2**

What intervention would you need to take if your patient had a contusion of the eyeball following a traumatic injury?

- A. Notify the physician.
- B. Irrigate the eye with cool water.
- C. Apply ice to the affected eye.
- D. Accompany the patient to the emergency room.

Correct Answer: C

The priority intervention for this patient would be to apply ice to the affected eye. The patient should then be seen by a physician to rule out any other eye injury. Do not irrigate the eye with cool water until it is examined by a physician.

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**QUESTION 3**

You determine that the patient you are caring for is having a transfusion reaction. You stop the blood immediately. Which action would you take next?

- A. Notify a physician.
- B. Determine the patient's white blood cell count.
- C. Administer normal saline at KVO.
- D. Administer normal saline bolus.

Correct Answer: C



The nurse should start normal saline at KVO for this patient to keep the IV open. Then the nurse should notify the physician of the reaction. The physician may order a white blood cell count or normal saline bolus, but the nurse should not initiate either without an order.

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**QUESTION 4**

You are caring for a child with acute exacerbation of asthma. What would indicate a worsening of the condition?

- A. Increased wheezing
- B. Decreased wheezing
- C. Warm, dry skin
- D. A pulse rate of 90 beats per minute

Correct Answer: B

Decreased wheezing would indicate a worsening of the condition. This could indicate an inability of the child to move air. With treatment, increased wheezing would indicate an improvement in the child's condition.

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**QUESTION 5**

You are reviewing an arterial blood gas for a patient. Which result would lead you to believe this patient has respiratory acidosis?

- A. pH of 7.48
- B. PCO<sub>2</sub> of 32 mm Hg
- C. pH of 7.30
- D. HCO<sub>3</sub> of 20 mEq/L

Correct Answer: C

A pH level of 7.30 would indicate an acid base imbalance. The normal pH is 7.35 and 7.45. Anything less than 7.35 would indicate acidosis, and anything greater than 7.45 would indicate an alkaline state. The normal PCO<sub>2</sub> is 35 to 45 mm Hg. Bicarbonate is usually associated with a metabolic state.

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