

Certified Foundational Perioperative Nurse (CFPN®)

Sample Practice Questions

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1. Which of the following statements is true regarding surgical site infections (SSIs)?

- A. Only 10% of SSIs are preventable.
- B. SSIs are now a key quality improvement metric.
- C. Non-modifiable patient factors contributing to SSIs include obesity.
- D. SSIs are no longer a major issue with modern surgery.



ANSWER

B

1. Answer B is correct.

Rationale: Even with sterile technique and all the advances (i.e., use of antibiotics), SSIs continue to occur and present tremendous financial burdens and are thus a major pay-for-performance metric.

Reference: Rothrock, J. C., (Ed.). (2023). *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery* (17th ed.). (pp. 53-55). Elsevier.



2. Which of the following is the highest priority for the circulating nurse at the beginning of a surgery?

- A. Performing the initial surgical count
- B. Assisting the anesthesia provider during intubation
- C. Verifying that all the items on the surgeon preference card are in the room
- D. Answering an urgent incoming call from the Central Processing Department



ANSWER

B

2. Answer B is correct.

Rationale: All these actions are the responsibility of a circulator, but the induction of anesthesia poses the highest risk to the patient and would be the first priority for the nurse.

Reference: Phillips, N., & Hornacky, A. (2021). *Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique* (14th ed.). (pp. 475-476). Elsevier.



3. Who has primary responsibility to ensure informed consent is obtained prior to surgery?

- A. The surgeon
- B. The circulating nurse
- C. The anesthesia provider
- D. Hospital administrative staff



ANSWER

A

3. Answer A is correct.

Rationale: While a diversity of team members may check or ensure a surgical consent form is present prior to surgery, the surgeon has primary responsibility to ensure informed consent is obtained.

Reference: Phillips N., & Hornacky, A. (2021). *Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique* (14th ed.). (pp. 42-43). Elsevier.



4. Which of the following is optimal for placement of the dispersive electrode in the use of an electrosurgical unit (ESU)?

- A. A well-vascularized area
- B. An area of adipose tissue
- C. A freshly shaved site near the ESU
- D. A bony prominence distant from the ESU



ANSWER

A

4. Answer A is correct.

Rationale: A well vascularized area, such as a muscle mass is optimal for placement of the dispersive electrode. A bony prominence and areas with excessive body hair are not desirable for placement. The distance from the ESU is not the first consideration.

Reference: Rothrock, J. C., (Ed.). (2023). *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery* (17th ed.). (pp. 222-223). Elsevier.



5. What is the normal range for a serum potassium?

- A. 1.5 – 3.0 mEq/L
- B. 96 – 106 mEq/L
- C. 70 – 115 mEq/L
- D. 3.5 - 5.0 mEq/L



ANSWER

D

5. Answer D is correct.

Rationale: A serum potassium level often appears in pre-operative laboratory values as potassium is a major intracellular cation that is essential for electrochemical reactions for cellular functions.

Reference: Rothrock, J. C., (Ed.). (2023). *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery* (17th ed.). (p. 135). Elsevier.