

Certified Foundational Perioperative Nurse (CFPN®) Sample Practice Questions

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1. Which of the following statements is true regarding Surgical Site Infections (SSI)?

- A. Only 10% of Surgical Site Infections are preventable.
- B. 2% to 5% of all surgeries will develop a Surgical Site Infection.
- C. Non-Modifiable patient factors contributing to SSIs include obesity.
- D. Surgical Site Infections are no longer a major issue with modern surgery.



ANSWER

B

1. Answer B is correct.

Rationale: Even with all advances in sterile technique and use of antibiotics 2% to 5% of all surgeries performed in this country will result in an SSI.

Reference: Rothrock JC, ed. *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*. 16th ed. (p. 54-55). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2019.



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 the 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. *Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique* 14th ed. (pp. 475-476). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2021.



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. *Berry and Kohn's Operating Room Technique* 14th ed. (pp. 475-476). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2021.



4. Which of the following is optimal for placement of the dispersive electrode in the use of electrosurgical units (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 JC, ed. *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*. 16th ed. (p. 224). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2019.



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. Perioperative nurses should have ready reference to the normal lab values which are often used in surgical care.

Reference: Rothrock JC, ed. *Alexander's Care of the Patient in Surgery*. 16th ed. (p. 1164). St. Louis, MO: Elsevier; 2019.