Safe Medications Principles

1. Prescriptions should include the full names of drugs, both brand-name and generic.
   True  False

2. The abbreviation Q.D. (daily) is often mistaken for Q.I.D. (four times daily).
   True  False

3. Nurses should avoid asking patients about their alcohol or "recreational" drug use.
   True  False

4. On the prescription form, the condition for which the medication is being prescribed should NOT be included.
   True  False

5. Any nurse can administer prescribed medications.
   True  False

6. What should a nurse do if she thinks that the prescribed medication may be wrong for a particular patient?
   a. Challenge it – get confirmation from her supervisor and/or the doctor
   b. Administer it since it is unlikely that the doctor and/or pharmacist made a mistake
   c. Administer it as there likely won’t be any adverse side effects
   d. Don’t administer it and make a note in the patient’s chart as to reasons why

7. To make sure you have the right patient, check the patient’s identification band and his or her room number.
   True  False
8. If a nurse is really busy, it is acceptable for her to prepare the medication in advance, and leave it for the patient to take, or for another professional to administer.

True   False

9. For critical drug calculations, what is the best approach?
   a. The nurse should do the calculations twice to make sure they are correct
   b. Use a calculator or computer to check the drug calculations
   c. Show the calculations to a colleague or supervisor to check
   d. Have another nurse do the calculation independently and compare results

10. A nurse should check the patient’s medication record to see that the medicine has not been given previously and/or is within the time limits allowed.

True   False

11. If a prescribed medication is NOT given to the patient, the nurse must provide a clear rationale and reasons in the patient’s record.

True   False

12. It is not necessary to record or report any adverse reactions to medications as these are already known by the pharmaceutical companies.

True   False

13. Administration of a medication is the giving by a nurse or authorized person of a drug to a patient.

True   False

14. Tablets should NOT be handled as the contamination may alter the coating of the medication.

True   False
15. To save time, nurses should prepare injectable medications in several syringes at a
time, and then label them.

   True    False

16. Common parenteral routes of drug administration include:

   a. Intravenous (IV)
   b. Intramuscular (IM)
   c. Subcutaneous (SC)
   d. Tablets or capsules

17. The nurse should wash her hands and put on gloves before preparing parenteral drugs
    and work on a clean surface.

   True    False

18. When should venous catheters be flushed?

   a. Flushing is not necessary anytime
   b. Before giving an IV drug
   c. In-between giving different IV drugs
   d. After giving an IV drug

19. For a central venous catheter, why is it common to fill the dead space of the catheter
    with a lock solution such as heparin, citrate or an antibiotic?

   a. Reduces the risk of infection
   b. To flush the catheter
   c. To make sure the catheter is working properly
   d. To dispose of expired medications
   e. To prevent the catheter from getting blocked by blood clots

20. If the computed total daily dose for the pediatric patient exceeds an adult dose, the
    adult dosage should be administered instead.

   True    False
21. It is not necessary to tell the patient what medication they are getting as it just confuses them.
   
   True    False

22. Transdermal patches can be placed anywhere on the body.
   
   True    False

23. Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC) line dressings should be changed at least weekly, when not being used routinely, and more often, if used frequently.
   
   True    False

24. Errors with IV meds are a problem because once the drug is given there is nothing to stop it from entering the patient’s circulatory system.
   
   True    False

25. Which of the following questions should a nurse ask women of childbearing age prior to administration of medications?
   
   a. Are you taking oral or other contraceptives?
   b. Are you pregnant or trying to conceive?
   c. Are you breast feeding?
   d. How many sex partners have you had in the last six months?

26. Ethnicity can affect the choice of medication in some diseases, and is associated with increased risk of side effects.
   
   True    False

27. Lifestyle can influence the safety of medications.
   
   True    False

28. Once a nurse has administered a medication, no additional actions are necessary.
   
   True    False
29. Any unused medications should be stored for later use or for use with other patients.
   True   False

30. An IV flush should be infused at the same rate as the original drug being administered.
   True   False

31. Absorption of a drug can be increased by rubbing a transdermal patch or applying heat or a warming blanket.
   True   False

32. Any tape can be used to secure an IV line.
   True   False
Answer Key to Safe Medications Principles: Quiz 2

Q01  T
Q02  T
Q03  F
Q04  F
Q05  F  The nurse has to be authorized as defined in her scope of practice and specified by legislation and regulations; in some cases, additional training and certification may be required before a nurse can administer prescription drugs.
Q06  a  A nurse has the right (and a duty) to question any part of the authorization to administer a medication if she is unclear about the instructions or preparation.
Q07  F  It is recommended that two patient identifiers be used prior to medication administration; identification bracelet is acceptable; however room number should NEVER be used.
Q08  F  This should NEVER be done!
Q09  d
Q10  T  This will ensure that there is no duplication of medication and will reduce the risk of overdosing.
Q11  T
Q12  F  All adverse reactions should be reported; this enables licensed pharmaceutical products to be monitored and appropriate actions taken.
Q13  T
Q14  T
Q15  F  The nurse preparing the injectable medication MUST label the syringe immediately after preparation! A nurse must NOT be in possession of more than one unlabeled syringe!
Q16  a, b, c
Q17  T
Q18  b, c, d  Flushing before ensures catheter is working properly; flushing in-between will prevent incompatible drugs from mixing and precipitating; and flushing after makes sure that there is no drug left inside the catheter the next time it is used.
Q19 a, e
Q20 T
Q21 F Telling the patient what medication they are about to receive provides a knowledgeable patient with the opportunity to confirm that this is the medication she or he is supposed to get.
Q22 F Patches should be placed on clean, dry and hairless skin; do not place the patch on abraded or irritated skin because this location will speed up the absorption of the drug.
Q23 T
Q24 T
Q25 a, b, c Women who are trying to conceive, are pregnant or breast feeding need to avoid a wide range of medications. If possible, all non-essential medicines should be avoided at the time of conception and in early pregnancy.
Q26 T Some Mediterranean races are more prone to a disease called thalassaemia; some black people may respond differently to anti-hypertensive therapy.
Q27 T For example, alcohol can have enhanced sedative properties when taken with a range of anti-depressant and analgesic medications; some drugs have increased side effects among smokers.
Q28 F The patient may require a period of observation and monitoring after administration; this may be due to risk of anaphylaxis or to ensure the full effects of the medication have been achieved.
Q29 F Any unused medications should be safely disposed according to the agency’s protocols.
Q30 T This will prevent the patient from getting an accidental rapid bolus of the original drug.
Q31 T These should be avoided so that the medication is absorbed in a timely manner.
Q32 F It is especially important to ensure that the tape is clean, and not from a roll that has been picked up from the patient’s bed; using tape or dressings that are not clean greatly increase the risk of infection.