

Infusion Therapy

Learning Exercise: Spinal and Epidural Infusions

In this learning activity, please answer the following questions.

1. LPNs are permitted to do all of the following EXCEPT:
 - a. Monitor the client's oxygenation
 - b. Provide client and family teaching
 - c. Remove an epidural
 - d. Assess neurological sensation

2. After an epidural catheter is removed, how many times will the nurse monitor for back pain in the first 24 hours:
 - a. Two times
 - b. Four times
 - c. Five times
 - d. Six times

3. How can a nurse recognize an epidural hematoma?

Answers for Spinal and Epidural Infusions

1. c. Remove an epidural
2. d. Six times
3. The nurse can recognize an epidural hematoma by observing the client for progressive weakness and sensory changes (paresthesia) well past the expected location of the block, severe back tenderness, and possible changes in bladder and/or bowel continence.