

## Chapter 01: Overview of Critical Care Nursing

### Sole: Introduction to Critical Care Nursing, 8th Edition

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#### MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which of the following professional organizations best supports critical care nursing practice?
  - a. American Association of Critical-Care Nurses
  - b. American Heart Association
  - c. American Nurses Association
  - d. Society of Critical Care Medicine

ANS: A

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is the specialty organization that supports and represents critical care nurses. The American Heart Association supports cardiovascular initiatives. The American Nurses Association supports all nurses. The Society of Critical Care Medicine represents the multiprofessional critical care team under the direction of an intensivist.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Knowledge

OBJ: Discuss the purposes and functions of the professional organizations that support critical care practice.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

2. A nurse has been working as a staff nurse in the surgical intensive care unit for 2 years and is interested in certification. Which credential would be most applicable for her to seek?
  - a. ACNPC
  - b. CCNS
  - c. CCRN
  - d. PCCN

ANS: C

The CCRN certification is appropriate for nurses in bedside practice who care for critically ill patients. The ACNPC certification is for acute care nurse practitioners. The CCNS certification is for critical care clinical nurse specialists. The PCCN certification is for staff nurses working in progressive care, intermediate care, or step-down unit settings.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

OBJ: Explain certification options for critical care nurses.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

3. What is the main purpose of certification for critical care nursing?
  - a. To assure the consumer that critical nurses will not make a mistake.
  - b. To help prepare the critical care nurse for graduate school.
  - c. To assist in promoting magnet status for a facility.
  - d. To validate a nurse's knowledge of critical care nursing.

ANS: D

Certification assists in validating knowledge of the field, promotes excellence in the profession, and helps nurses to maintain their knowledge of critical care nursing. Certification helps to assure the consumer that the nurse has a minimum level of knowledge; however, it does not ensure that care will be mistake-free. Certification does not prepare one for graduate school; however, achieving certification demonstrates motivation for achievement and professionalism. Magnet facilities are rated on the number of certified nurses; however, that is not the purpose of certification.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Explain certification options for critical care nurses.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

4. What is the focus of the synergy model of practice?
  - a. Allowing unrestricted visiting for the patient 24 hours each day.
  - b. Providing holistic and alternative therapies.
  - c. Considering the needs of patients and their families, which drives nursing competency.
  - d. Addressing the patients' needs for energy and support.

ANS: C

The synergy model of practice states that the needs of patients and families influence and drive competencies of nurses. Nursing practice based on the synergy model would involve tailored visiting to meet the patient's and family's needs and application of alternative therapies if desired by the patient, but that is not the primary focus of the model.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Application

OBJ: Describe standards of professional practice for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

5. The family of your critically ill patient tells you that they have not spoken with the physician in over 24 hours and they have some questions that they want clarified. During morning rounds, you convey this concern to the attending intensivist and arrange for her to meet with the family at 4:00 PM in the conference room. Which competency of critical care nursing does this represent?
  - a. Advocacy and moral agency in solving ethical issues
  - b. Clinical judgment and clinical reasoning skills
  - c. Collaboration with patients, families, and team members
  - d. Facilitation of learning for patients, families, and team members

ANS: C

Although one might consider that all of these competencies are being addressed, communication and collaboration with the family and physician best exemplify the competency of collaboration.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Describe standards of professional practice for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

6. The AACN Standards for Acute and Critical Care Nursing Practice uses what framework to guide critical care nursing practice?
  - a. Evidence-based practice

- b. Healthy work environment
- c. National Patient Safety Goals
- d. Nursing process

ANS: D

The AACN Standards for Acute and Critical Care Nursing Practice delineate the nursing process as applied to critically ill patients: collect data, determine diagnoses, identify expected outcomes, develop a plan of care, implement interventions, and evaluate care. AACN promotes a healthy work environment, but this is not included in the Standards. The Joint Commission has established National Patient Safety Goals, but these are not the AACN Standards.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understand

OBJ: Describe standards of professional practice for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

7. The charge nurse is responsible for making the patient assignments on the critical care unit. She assigns the experienced, certified nurse to care for the acutely ill patient diagnosed with sepsis who also requires continuous renal replacement therapy and mechanical ventilation. She assigns the nurse with less than 1 year of experience to two patients who are more stable. This assignment reflects implementation of what guiding framework?
- a. Crew resource management model
  - b. National Patient Safety Goals
  - c. Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) model
  - d. Synergy model of practice

ANS: D

This assignment demonstrates nursing care to meet the needs of the patient. The synergy model notes that the nurse competencies are matched to the patient characteristics. Crew resource management concepts related to team training, National Patient Safety Goals are specified by The Joint Commission to promote safe care but do not incorporate the synergy model. The Quality and Safety Education for Nurses initiative involves targeted education to undergraduate and graduate nursing students to learn quality and safety concepts.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Describe standards of professional practice for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

8. The vision of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses is a healthcare system driven by achieving what goal?
- a. Maintaining a healthy work environment.
  - b. Providing care from a multiprofessional team under the direction of a critical care physician.
  - c. Effectively meeting the needs of critically ill patients and families.
  - d. Creating respectful, healing, and humane environments.

ANS: C

The AACN vision is a healthcare system driven by the needs of critically ill patients and families where critical care nurses make their optimum contributions. AACN promotes initiatives to support a healthy work environment as well as respectful and healing environments, but that is not the organization's vision. The SCCM promotes care from a multiprofessional team under the direction of a critical care physician.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Knowledge

OBJ: Discuss the purposes and functions of the professional organizations that support critical care practice.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

9. What is the most important outcome of effective communication?
- Demonstrating caring practices to family members.
  - Ensuring that patient teaching is provided
  - Meeting the diversity needs of patients.
  - Reducing patient errors.

ANS: D

Many errors are directly attributed to faulty communication. Effective communication has been identified as an essential strategy to reduce patient errors and resolve issues related to patient care delivery. Communication may demonstrate caring practices, be used for patient/family teaching, and address diversity needs; however, the main outcome of effective communication is patient safety.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Describe quality and safety initiatives related to critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

10. The nurse is caring for a critically ill patient whose urine output has been low for 2 consecutive hours. After a thorough patient assessment, you call the primary care provider with the following report.

*Dr. Smith, I'm calling about Mrs. P., your 65-year-old patient in CCU 10. Her urine output for the past 2 hours totaled only 40 mL. She arrived from surgery to repair an aortic aneurysm 4 hours ago and remains on mechanical ventilation. In the past 2 hours, her heart rate has increased from 80 to 100 beats per minute and her blood pressure has decreased from 128/82 to 100/70 mm Hg. She is being given an infusion of normal saline at 100 mL per hour. Her right atrial pressure through the subclavian central line is low at 3 mm Hg. Her urine is concentrated. Her BUN and creatinine levels have been stable and in normal range. Her abdominal dressing is dry with no indication of bleeding. My assessment suggests that Mrs. P. is hypovolemic and I would like you to consider increasing her fluids or giving her a fluid challenge. Using the SBAR model for communication, the information the nurse gives about the patient's history and vital signs is appropriate for what part of the model?*

- Situation
- Background
- Assessment
- Recommendation

ANS: B

The history and vital signs are part of the background. Information regarding the low urine output is the situation. Information regarding possible hypovolemia is part of the nurse's assessment, and the suggestion for fluids is the recommendation.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Understand

OBJ: Describe quality and safety initiatives related to critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: Assessment MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

11. The family members of a critically ill, 90-year-old patient bring in a copy of the patient's living will to the hospital, which identifies the patient's wishes regarding health care. The nurse discusses the contents of the living will with the patient's physician. This is an example of implementation of which of the AACN Standards of Professional Performance?
- Acquires and maintains current knowledge of practice
  - Acts ethically on the behalf of the patient and family
  - Considers factors related to safe patient care
  - Uses clinical inquiry and integrates research findings in practice

ANS: B

Discussing end-of-life issues is an example of a nurse acting ethically on behalf of the patient and family. The example does not relate to acquiring knowledge, promoting patient safety, or using research in practice.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Describe standards of care and performance for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: Implementation

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

12. Which of the following assists the critical care nurse in ensuring that care is appropriate and based on research?
- Clinical practice guidelines
  - Computerized physician order entry
  - Consulting with advanced practice nurses
  - Implementing Joint Commission National Patient Safety Goals

ANS: A

Clinical practice guidelines are being implemented to ensure that care is appropriate and based on research. Some physician order entry pathways, but not all, are based on research recommendations. Some advanced practice nurses, but not all, are well versed in evidence-based practices. The National Patient Safety Goals are recommendations to reduce errors using evidence-based practices.

DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis

OBJ: Describe standards of professional practice for critical care nursing.

TOP: Nursing Process Step: N/A

MSC: NCLEX: Safe and Effective Care Environment

13. Comparing the patient's current (home) medications with those ordered during hospitalization and communicating a complete list of medications to the next care provider when the patient is transferred within an organization or to another setting are strategies toward best achieving what patient related goal?
- Improving accuracy of patient identification.
  - Preventing errors related to look-alike and sound-alike medications.
  - Reconciling medications across the continuum of care.
  - Reducing harms associated with administration of anticoagulants.

ANS: C