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Medication Aide Certification Examination Exam



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Question: 1

What does it mean when a tablet is scored?

- A. It is dissolvable in oil
- B. It can be broken in half
- C. It must be taken with food
- D. It can be crushed

Answer: B

Explanation:

A scored tablet is one that can be split in half or quarters due to a demarcating line allowing for the split.

Question: 2

Which of the following medications is given orally to treat diabetes mellitus by lowering blood glucose levels?

- A. Insulin glargine
- B. Metformin
- C. Exenatide
- D. Glucagon

Answer: B

Explanation:

Metformin (Glumetza, Riomet) is a first-line treatment for diabetes mellitus type 2. Insulin glargine (Lantus) is a long-acting insulin. It cannot be administered orally and must be injected. Exenatide (Byetta) is a newer antidiabetic medication called an incretin mimetic. It cannot be administered orally and must be injected. Glucagon (GlucaGen) is an injectable medication used to increase blood glucose levels during a hypoglycemic emergency. A hypoglycemic emergency occurs when a patient's blood sugar falls too low due to a high dose of insulin or antidiabetic medications.

Question: 3

Which of the following is an antiviral drug used to treat HIV?

- A. Tenofovir
- B. Acyclovir

- C. Ciprofloxacin
- D. Vancomycin

Answer: A

Explanation:

Most antiviral drugs end with 'i-vir'. Examples of HIV antiretroviral drugs includes tenofovir, dolutegravir, abavacir, elvitegravir, darunavir, sofosbuvir, and ritonavir. However, there are a few HIV antiviral drugs that do not following the "-vir" naming rule. These include emtricitabine and lamivudine. Antiviral drugs used to treat herpes infections include acyclovir and valacyclovir. Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) is an antiviral drug used to treat influenza. Ciprofloxacin and vancomycin are antibiotics used to treat bacterial infections.

Question: 4

Which of the following methods can be used to prevent needle stick injuries?

- A. Use of retractable needle syringes
- B. Recapping the needle after use
- C. Removing needles from syringes after use
- D. Disposing of needles in the hazardous waste bin

Answer: A

Explanation:

Use of needleless or retractable needle devices are one of the best ways to prevent needlestick injuries. Once a needle is used, it should be placed in a sharps disposal container immediately. Sharps bins are usually plastic containers that have a one-way opening for the disposal of sharps and prevent the removal of objects from the container. Sharps bins should not be more than three-fourths of the way full or go above the fill line indicated on the container. Needles should not be recapped because the recapping process increases the risk of a needlestick injury. Additionally, capped needles may be mistaken for new needles and be used again. The needles at the end of a syringe should not be attempted to be removed because this increases the risk of a needlestick injury. Discard any used sharps along with whatever they are attached to without trying to remove them. Chemotherapy sharps and other hazardous substances should be disposed of in a separate sharps bin labeled as hazardous. They should not be placed in the regular hazardous waste bin. If a patient does not have a sharps container, he or she should dispose of his or her sharps in a hard, sealable container, such as a laundry detergent bottle.

Question: 5

Which of the following products is NOT under strict FDA regulations?

- A. Prescription medications
- B. OTC medications
- C. Dietary supplements

D. Medical devices

Answer: C

Explanation:

Per the Dietary Supplement Health and Education Act of 1994 (DSHEA), the FDA regulates dietary supplements under a much looser set of regulations than those of drug products (both prescription and OTC) and medical devices. Dietary supplement manufacturers are not required to present any clinical studies or safety data prior to approval. In fact, dietary supplements do not require FDA approval prior to marketing. However, under the DSHEA, manufacturers are prohibited from marketing dietary supplements that are adulterated or misbranded. The FDA is responsible for taking action against any adulterated or misbranded dietary supplement product after it reaches the market.

Question: 6

What is the most appropriate way to read the meniscus when measuring liquids?

- A. Tap the volumetric vessel gently to try to flatten the meniscus before reading the measurement.
- B. Use a medicine dropper to fill in the curve of the meniscus once the appropriate level is attained.
- C. View the meniscus at eye level, and read the level that corresponds to the bottom of the meniscus.
- D. View the meniscus at eye level, and read the level that corresponds to the top of the meniscus.

Answer: C

Explanation:

A meniscus is the curved surface that results when liquid is poured into a column. The column might be a graduated cylinder or other type of volumetric vessel. The vessel should be at eye level, whether it is placed on a flat surface or brought up to eye level by holding it in the nondominant hand. As the liquid is poured into the container, a medicine dropper or pipette should be used to add drops to reach the final volume. The correct way to read the meniscus is to read the level at the bottom of the curve. It is important for the container to be at eye level, however, to get the correct reading. The size of the meniscus will vary based on the circumference of the vessel: for example, a tall, thin vessel will produce a larger meniscus than a vessel with a wider circumference.

Question: 7

A patient's family asks how he is doing after his scheduled MRI. How should the medication aide respond?

- A. He had an MRI today?
- B. His MRI results are back. Everything is normal.
- C. He seems to be in good spirits. Let me see if he's ready to visit with you and I'll find his nurse to talk to you about the results.
- D. Good. He should be ready to go home soon.

Answer: C

Explanation:

Unless the family member has a legal document stating that they are the patient's guardian or holds power of attorney, the patient has a right to privacy. Further, the medication aide should not give results to any patient or family member. It's fine to say that the patient seems to be feeling well and offer to get the nurse to discuss details about the test.

Question: 8

Which of the following scenarios would be best described as a near-miss error?

- A. Ampicillin was ordered for a patient allergic to penicillin. However, the pharmacist was alerted to the allergy during the computer order entry process and the physician was called to review other treatment options.
- B. A patient discovers that they were provided Seroquel 200 mg tablets instead of 300 mg tablets prior to taking a dose.
- C. A medication aide administers potassium chloride 20 mEq instead of cefazolin 2 g due to the stark similarities between the vials, resulting in a sentinel event.
- D. The medication aide administers 10 mL from a Novolog vial instead of 10 mL from a Novolin vial, causing a patient to experience an adverse event.

Answer: A

Explanation:

A near-miss event is a medication error that took place but was discovered before reaching the patient. These types of events or situations are considered "close calls" because they are still a medication error, but one that did not reach the patient. A sentinel event is a medication error that results in death or serious injury to a patient.

Question: 9

A client is prescribed 0.25 mg terbutaline subcutaneously, but the medication is provided as 1 mg/mL. How much medication is needed to provide the correct dosage?

- A. 0.25 mL
- B. 0.5 mL
- C. 2.5 mL
- D. 1 mL

Answer: A

Explanation:

0.25 mL Calculation:

$$1 \text{ (mg)}/1 \text{ (mL)} = 0.25 \text{ (mg)}/x \text{ (mL)}$$

$$1 \times x = 1x$$

$$1 \times 0.25 = 0.25$$

$$1x = 0.25$$

$$x = 0.25 \text{ mL}$$

Question: 10

Hydromorphone is a controlled substance belonging to which schedule?

- A. II
- B. III
- C. IV
- D. V

Answer: A

Explanation:

Hydromorphone (Dilaudid) is a schedule II controlled substance, meaning that it has a high potential for abuse and prescribers must adhere to stricter prescription and storage requirements. Opioids, attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder stimulants, and barbiturates are classified as schedule II substances. Other commonly prescribed schedule II substances are codeine, dihydrocodeine, hydrocodone, morphine (MS Contin), oxycodone (Oxycontin, Percocet), oxymorphone, fentanyl, methadone, meperidine (Demerol), amphetamine (Adderall), methylphenidate (Ritalin, Concerta), and pentobarbital.

Question: 11

All of the following are common side effects of antibiotics EXCEPT:

- A. Allergic reaction
- B. Skin rash
- C. Constipation
- D. Diarrhea

Answer: C

Explanation:

Constipation is not a common side effect of antibiotics. Allergic reactions are common with antibiotics, particularly penicillins, cephalosporins, and sulfa drugs. Allergic reactions can vary from very severe anaphylaxis to minor skin rashes. Diarrhea, gas, and abdominal cramping are also common with antibiotics because they can disrupt the normal flora bacteria that live in the gut.

Question: 12

Which of the following drugs is considered a narrow-therapeutic-index (NTI) medication?

- A. Metformin
- B. Lithium
- C. Eszopiclone
- D. Dextromethorphan

Answer: B

Explanation:

The FDA defines narrow-therapeutic-index (NTI) drugs as those drugs in which small differences in the dose or blood concentration may lead to dose and blood concentration dependencies, serious therapeutic failures, or adverse drug reactions. Lithium carbonate is considered an NTI drug. It is used to treat bipolar disorder. Lithium blood levels must be closely monitored during the initiation of treatment (twice a week until the patient's status and blood levels are stable). Any deviation out of the narrow range of optimal therapy can result in either poor therapeutic efficacy (<0.5 mEq/L) or lithium toxicity (>1.5 mEq/L). Metformin (antidiabetic agent), eszopiclone (insomnia medication), and dextromethorphan (antitussive) do not require tight monitoring of drug levels.

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