

# CEN<sup>Q&As</sup>

Certified Emergency Nurse

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**QUESTION 1**

You are caring for a patient with a phosphorus level of 2.0 mg/dL. What condition do you know would cause the phosphorus level to be so low?

- A. Alcoholism
- B. Hypoparathyroidism
- C. Tumor lysis syndrome
- D. Renal insufficiency

Correct Answer: A

Of the above listed conditions, the patient with alcoholism would be most likely to have a phosphorus level of 2.0 mg/dL. A normal phosphorus level is 2.7 to 4.5 mg/dL. Malnutrition or starvation and the use of aluminum hydroxide-based antacids can also be causes of low phosphorus levels. The other three conditions are more likely to cause hyperphosphatemia.

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**QUESTION 2**

You are caring for a child who has HIV with a positive Mantoux test. The physician orders isoniazid (INH). You instruct the child's mother that the patient will have to take the medication for how long?

- A. 4 months
- B. 6 months
- C. 9 months
- D. 12 months

Correct Answer: D

The child will need to take the medication for 12 months. A child with HIV would need to take the medication for longer to prevent latent infection from progressing to active infection. Children who are not immune compromised will need to take the drug for 2 to 4 months.

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**QUESTION 3**

You are caring for a patient who has been in a multiple trauma that has lead to severe blood loss. What type of device will you need to acquire to transfuse several units of blood quickly?

- A. Cardiac monitor
- B. Pulse oximetry
- C. Blood warming device
- D. Infusion controller

Correct Answer: C

In order to transfuse several units quickly without causing cardiac dysrhythmia, the nurse would need a blood warming device. Blood products must be warmed if they are going to be administered quickly. In this situation, the patient would not benefit from administering the blood slow.

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#### QUESTION 4

You are encouraging your postoperative patient to cough and take deep breaths. The patient questions why it is so important to do this. Your response would include the understanding that retaining pulmonary secretions can lead to:

- A. Fluid imbalance
- B. Carbon dioxide retention
- C. Pulmonary edema
- D. Pneumonia

Correct Answer: D

Coughing and deep breath exercises help prevent pneumonia in the postoperative patient. Pneumonia is inflammation of lung tissue that causes productive cough, dyspnea and crackles. Postoperative complications related to pneumonia can be prevented if the patient is encouraged to cough and breathe deeply.

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#### QUESTION 5

You are caring for a patient who has come into the emergency department with a foreign body in his right ear. After further investigation you determine that the foreign object is an insect. What intervention would the physician order first for this client?

- A. Sterile normal saline irrigation
- B. Diluted alcohol irrigation
- C. Antibiotic ear drops
- D. Corticosteroids ointment

Correct Answer: B

The nurse would know that the physician will order diluted alcohol irrigation of the affected ear. This will suffocate the insect so it can be removed from the ear with forceps. If the foreign object were vegetable matter, irrigation would not be performed due to the enlargement of the object when it is hydrated, which would make the impaction worse.