

Tissue Integrity Reading Guide

Review Inflammation, Assessment, Wounds and Healing first, then Pressure Ulcers and Other Integumentary Problems

1. Watch all the videos embedded in the PowerPoints. It's important that you have a general understanding of the inflammatory process now – it's the basis for how the body reacts to wounds, how it heals itself, and what factors can interfere with healing. We will also revisit the inflammatory process when we learn about Immune Function later in the module. While there aren't many exam questions on the inflammatory process itself, we will build on the knowledge throughout the module.
2. What is the mechanism of the inflammatory process that results in swelling with a wound?
3. Why would an immune compromised patient need to be treated immediately for fever?
4. Name two possible complications of wound healing.
5. What types of solutions should not be used in management of a clean, granulating wound? Why?
6. Wound dressings vary widely and are constantly changing – I won't ask you specific questions about specific types of dressings – however, you should have a basic understanding of the purposes of dressings and that different types of dressings have different purposes.
7. What is the “enemy” of wound healing?
8. Suture and staple removal is a skill you can acquire during this module. Watch the video and make sure to take advantage of any opportunities to assist with or complete this skill during clinicals. Why is it important to clip the suture opposite the knot?
9. Name three factors that can contribute to pressure injury.
10. Be sure you know how to identify pressure injury and can stage a pressure ulcer based on it's characteristics. I could give you a description of the wound – you would need to be able to tell me what stage it is.
11. How often should the nurse assess a patient's skin for breakdown in the hospital? What tool does Covenant use to assess the risk for skin breakdown?

12. What is the single most important intervention you can use to prevent skin breakdown and pressure injuries?
13. Think about risk factors for skin breakdown and which patients would be at highest risk for developing a pressure ulcer.
14. Be able to identify the three types of ulcers not associated with pressure (arterial, venous, diabetic ulcers) – what causes them, how are they treated?
15. Review treatments for psoriasis – some are topical, some involve topical treatment in conjunction with light therapy, and some are systemic. Review common side effects and adverse effects of the most common treatments.

There are 20 questions on Exam 1 for this content. Refer to the Learning Guide for assigned reading and objectives. Use the Med-Surg text and the pharmacology text as you review the PowerPoint presentations. I have included practice questions in the PowerPoint.

My advice as you go through this content – imagine you have a patient with the condition you are studying. Think about how you would assess the condition, what questions you would ask the patient, and what you would expect to see. Then think through how you would teach the patient about their condition, any treatments they could expect, side effects of medications that could be used and s/s they should report to the provider. What would you be watching out for? What are common complications or indications the condition is worsening? What would that look like?