ACTIVE LEARNING TEMPLATE: *Digoxin*

STUDENT NAME _____

MEDICATION _____ REVIEW MODULE CHAPTER _____

CATEGORY CLASS _____

PURPOSE OF MEDICATION

Expected Pharmacological Action

Inhibits sodium, potassium-ATPase which causes calcium to collect in the heart cells which assists the proteins actin and myosin to increase cardiac contractility, therefore improving cardiac output.

Therapeutic Use

Increase cardiac output

Slowing of heart rate

Complications

Cardiac dysrhythmias if toxicity occurs. AV block.

Signs of toxicity include: nausea, anorexia, vomiting, fatigue, visual changes.

Medication Administration

Oral tablets/ capsules, or elixir for IV use.

Give orally without food, may be crushed if necessary.

IV given directly over 5 minutes, monitor IV site for infiltration.

Contraindications/Precautions

Uncontrolled ventricular dysrhythmias, AV block, or severe heart disease.

Digoxin toxicity.

Use cautiously in clients with hypokalemia, hypercalcemia, or on diuretic therapy.

Use cautiously in infants, children, and older adults.

Nursing Interventions

Monitor for and report any G.I symptoms.

Take pulse for full minute before administering, hold if pulse below 60 bpm.

Monitor digoxin and potassium levels frequently, and monitor cardiac rhythm for changes.

Interactions

Erythromycin and other antibiotics, as well as verapamil and other antidysrhythmics can increase digoxin levels.

Thiazide and loop diuretics can increase risk for digoxin toxicity due to decreased potassium levels.

St. Johns wart decreases digoxin level

Client Education

Report any nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, headache, visual disturbances, or palpitations.

Learn how to take pulse for full minute at home.

Take digoxin at the same time each day.

Report any signs of hypokalemia.

Evaluation of Medication Effectiveness

Decrease in severity of HF.

Increased cardiac output.