

RN Pharmacology – Remediation

Management of Care

Client Rights

- All patients have the right to make autonomous decisions about their medical care including their right to accept and refuse any treatments/medication
- All patients have the right to privacy and confidentiality
- All patients have the right to fully know about their medical condition and treatments without any withholding of information

Psychosocial Integrity

Substance Use and Other Disorders and Dependencies

- Nurses must plan and provide care to clients experiencing substance-related withdrawal or toxicity
- Nurses will provide symptom management for clients experiencing withdrawal or toxicity
- A nurse may review the definition of drug dependence and categories of symptoms. This intervention can help the patient make decisions regarding acceptance of problem and treatment choices.

Pharmacological and Parenteral Therapies

Adverse Effects/Contraindications/Side Effects/Interactions

- Adverse effects are undesirable and potentially dangerous responses to a medication
- Adverse effects can be inadvertent or predictable
- Some adverse effects are immediate while others take weeks or months to develop

Expected Actions/Outcomes

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- The nurse will evaluate the client's response to medication
- The nurse will obtain information on the client's prescribed medications and any vitamins and herbal supplements the client may be taking
- The nurse will use clinical decision making/critical thinking when addressing expected effects/outcomes of medication

Medication Administration

- A nurse must verify the client's identification before each medication administration
- Ways to identify a patient include the client's name/DOB, and room number
- One must prioritize medication administration to administer critical meds first, or to know which medications need to be given prior to treatment, surgeries, or meals

Parenteral/Intravenous Therapies

- A parenteral route is an administration anywhere in the body other than oral
- Signs and symptoms of intravenous therapy infection include the classic signs of infection such as swelling, soreness, redness at the site, pain, and fever
- An IV line and the insertion site are monitored and maintained by the nurse.

Pharmacological Pain Management

- Opioids are narcotics. These are used for moderate to severe pain
- Non-narcotics are also used for pain management. For example Tylenol, NSAIDS, Opioid Agonists
- Opioid agonists such as codeine have side effects of constipation, sedation, nausea, dizziness, pruritus, and sedation.

Reduction of Risk Potential

Changes/Abnormalities in Vital Signs

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- A significant drop in BP may indicate the presence of hemorrhage and bleeding
- A drop in a patient's O2 sat can indicate the early stages of hypoxia
- A rise in a patient's temperature can indicate an infection in the body.

Laboratory Values

- A client's current lab values are compared to the "normal" lab values, in order to determine the physiological status of the client and to compare values during treatment vs. prior to treatment.
- A normal sodium level is 135-145
- A normal Potassium level is 3.5-5

Physiological Adaption

Fluid and Electrolyte Imbalances

- Disturbances of F&E can result in fluid retention. Fluid retention as evidenced by weight gain.
- Hypokalemia can also be a result of F/E disturbance. This is evidenced by muscle weakness.
- A complication of F&E imbalances can include metabolic acidosis. The nurse should monitor lab values and manifestations of metabolic acidosis such as drowsiness and restlessness.