Substance Use Disorders

Benzodiazepines

- First-line treatment for treatment of alcohol withdrawal.
- Maintenance of vital signs within expected limits.
- Decrease in the risk of seizures

Disulfiram

- daily oral medication that is a type of aversion (behavioral) therapy
- Be aware of the dangers and potentially fatal reaction of drinking any alcohol.
- Wear a medical alert bracelet

Acamprosate

- INTENDED EFFECTS: Acamprosate decreases unpleasant effects resulting from abstinence (dysphoria, anxiety, restlessness)
- Advise clients to take medication three times a day with meals.
- Advise clients to avoid use in pregnancy

Medications to Support Withdrawal/Abstinence from Opioids

- Methadone substitution is an oral opioid agonist that replaces the opioid to which the client has a physical dependence.
- Avoid activities that require mental alertness until drowsiness subsides.
- Chew sugarless gum and obtain baseline VS.

Antidote

Naloxone

- To treat dry mouth, chew sugarless gum or suck on hard candy and sip small amounts of water or suck on ice chips.
- Avoid caffeine and other CNS stimulants to control insomnia
- INTENDED EFFECTS: Bupropion decreases nicotine craving and manifestations of withdrawal

Varenicline

- A nicotinic receptor agonist that promotes the release of dopamine to simulate the pleasurable effects of nicotine
- Monitor blood pressure during treatment.
- Monitor clients who have diabetes mellitus for loss of glycemic control

Nicotine Lozenge

- Allow the lozenge to slowly dissolve in the mouth (20 to 30 min)
- Avoid oral intake 15 min prior to or during lozenge use.
- Limit lozenge use to five in a 6 hr period or a maximum of 20/day.

Nicotine Gum

- NURSING ACTION: Use of nicotine gum is not recommended for longer than 6 months.

- Chew gum slowly and intermittently over 30 min.

- Avoid eating or drinking 15 min prior to and while chewing the gum.

Nicotine patch

NURSING ACTIONS: Remove the patch prior to MRI scan and replace when the scan is completed.

CLIENT EDUCATION

- Apply a nicotine patch to an area of clean, dry skin each day.
- Avoid using any nicotine products while the patch is on.
- Follow product directions for dosage times

Nicotine Inhaler

- Simulates smoking by puffing on the inhaler, which delivers nicotine.
- Contains menthol, which creates sensation in the back of the throat similar to smoking.
- Avoid in clients who have asthma

Medications Affecting the Reproductive Tract

Estrogens

- Oral, transdermal, intravaginal, IM, and IV
- Report persistent vaginal bleeding
- Schedule an endometrial biopsy every 2 years and pelvic exam yearly

Androgens

- Testosterone/Methyltestosterone
- IM, transdermal, implantable pellets, buccal tablets

- Be aware of possible medication effects.

- Monitor for indications of jaundice (yellowing of the skin and sclera of the eyes).

- Monitor liver enzymes

Phosphodiesterase Type 5 Inhibitors

- Monitor risk factors and history with regard to cardiovascular health
- Notify the provider if erection lasts more than 4 hr.
- Discontinue medication if hearing is affected

Alpha1 Adrenergic Antagonists

- Hypotension, dizziness, nasal congestion, sleepiness, faintness
- Monitor blood pressure
- Rise slowly from sitting or lying position, do not drive or operate machinery.

5-Alpha Reductase Inhibitors

Finasteride/Dutasteride

- Pregnancy Risk

- Contraindicated in clients who have medication hypersensitivity.

- Use with caution in clients who have liver disease

Hormonal Contraceptives

- Avoid smoking.

- Report warmth, edema, tenderness, or pain in lower legs
- Monitor glucose in clients who have diabetes mellitus

Progesterones

Medroxyprogesterone/Norethindrone

- Discourage clients from smoking.
- Monitor for pain, swelling, warmth, or erythema of lower legs
- Notify the provider of chest pain or shortness of breath

Vitamins and Minerals

Iron Preparations

- Oral: Ferrous gluconate, ferrous fumarate
- Parenteral: Ferumoxytol, iron sucrose, sodium-ferric gluconate complex

- Administer medication with food.
- Black or dark green stool.
- Dilute liquid iron with water or juice, drink with a straw, and rinse mouth after swallowing.

Vitamin B12/Cyanocobalamin

- Monitor potassium levels during the start of treatment.

- Observe clients for manifestations of potassium deficiency (muscle weakness, irregular cardiac rhythm).

- Clients might require potassium supplements

Folic Acid

- Monitor blood phenytoin levels
- Assess for manifestations of megaloblastic anemia (pallor, easy fatigability, palpitations, paresthesias of hands or feet)
- Take the medication with meals or at least 8 oz of water

Magnesium Sulfate

- Monitor electrolyte levels for electrolyte loss from diarrhea.

- Monitor I&O, and observe for manifestations of dehydration

- Magnesium supplements are used for clients who have hypomagnesemia (magnesium level less than 1.3 mEq/L)