METI®   Abandoned Healthy Newborn

Simulated Clinical Experience (SCE™) Overview

Location: Emergency Department, Well Baby Nursery

History/Information:
The Well Baby Nursery nurse receives a call from the Emergency Department (ED) requesting help for an abandoned female infant en route to the hospital via police car. The infant was found wrapped in a damp bloody sheet in a small clothing basket under a tree in a courtyard of a small community church. According to the police, the church pastor reported seeing a young pregnant teenager and an older man arguing in the courtyard a day ago. As the infant was brought into the ED, a Well Baby Nursery nurse has just arrived in the ED with a warm isolette ready to transport the infant to the nursery. The length of time that the infant was in the courtyard is not known. The ED healthcare provider is a dermatologist who has not had recent experience with pediatric care. The police are sharing the information received from the pastor with the ED nurse as the nursery nurse arrives.

Healthcare Provider's Orders:
Admit to Well Baby Nursery Isolation room
Place under radiant warmer or isolette with servo control set at 36.5°C until stable
Position on back unless otherwise ordered and suction prn
Weigh infant on admission and daily
Vital signs on admit then every 1 hour for 3 hours until stable, then every 8 hours
Administer oxygen as required based on clinical symptoms, place on SpO_2 monitor if requires oxygen
Capillary Blood Glucose (CBG) STAT
Phytonadione 1mg IM on admit
Erythromycin ophthalmic ointment OU

Learning Objectives

1. Performs an accurate assessment of a healthy infant (APPLICATION).

2. Identifies abnormal findings in the assessment of a newborn (KNOWLEDGE).

3. Uses critical thinking skills to determine and perform interventions for any abnormal findings (APPLICATION).

4. Provides organized, concise verbal reports (APPLICATION).

5. Integrates the legal and ethical considerations while providing nursing care for an abandoned minor newborn (APPLICATION).

Questions to Prepare for the Simulated Clinical Experience

1. Define thermoregulation and explain methods of heat loss in the newborn.

2. What are the signs, symptoms and effects of cold stress?

3. What is the normal range for Capillary Blood Glucose (CBG) in a newborn infant on the first day of birth and thereafter?

4. What is the normal range of vital signs in the newborn?

5. What is the average weight range for a healthy newborn infant and what factors may affect weight?

6. What resources are available to children who are abandoned?

7. Discuss the laws that govern the placement of abandoned children in your area and the legal implications for the nurse.

8. Describe tools and scales that may be used to determine gestational age of a newborn infant. Cite examples of these tools and how the data are interpreted and used to formulate a plan of care for an abandoned infant.

9. Explain the methods used and observations made to assess the central nervous system of the newborn.

References

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