STUDY GUIDE
Asepsis: Medical and Surgical

Directions: Print and complete the study guide. Turn it into your professor prior to the laboratory practice session.

In Lab: Be prepared to perform the following procedures: Care of the isolation patient; Prepare a sterile field; Open sterile packages; Surgical hand washing; and Sterile gowning and gloving using the closed method.

1. Discuss the importance of asepsis in working with patients. In your discussion, include the following: How infection is transmitted; Ways organisms enter the body; and Host susceptibility to infection.

2. List 5 examples of how nosocomial and iatrogenic infections can be prevented (HINT: think about how organisms enter the body).

3. Explain 5 reasons why older adults are at increased risk for infection.

4. Define sterilization and disinfection. Give 3 examples of when it is necessary to sterilize equipment and 3 examples of the need to disinfect equipment.

5. Discuss the importance of hand washing in relation to asepsis. Include 5 examples of situations when it is essential to perform hand washing. Also discuss the length of time that hands should be washed to remove most transient microorganisms from the skin.

6. Explain how you would care for an active TB patient with a new tracheostomy tube and copious respiratory secretions. Include the following:
   • Discuss Center for Disease Control and Prevention Isolation Guidelines.
   • Discuss important procedural guidelines for isolation precautions (i.e. how to enter the room, assess vital signs, administer medications, bathe patient, dispose of linens and trash, and leave the isolation room).
   • Explain the importance of the patient being placed in a negative-pressure airflow room.
   • Discuss the characteristics of the type of mask to be worn.
   • Explain the procedure for transporting the patient to radiology for X-ray.

7. List 7 important principles of surgical asepsis.

8. What must the nurse do in preparation for starting the surgical scrub?

9. List the important segments of the scrub.

10. What is the correct position for holding the hands during the scrub?
11. Describe the correct procedure for the surgical scrub for hands and arms (include the number of strokes for each specific section of the hands and arms).

12. Describe the procedure for using a sterile towel to dry the hands and arms following the surgical scrub.

13. What is the correct way to open the sterile gown and glove package?

14. Describe the procedure for putting on sterile gloves---closed method.

15. Describe how the closure of the wraparound sterile gown is completed.

16. Once the nurse is gowned and gloved, where are the hands held and what part of the protective clothing is considered sterile?

17. What is the key concept to keep in mind when removing the sterile gown and gloves?