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Question 1

Question Type: MultipleChoice

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), pharmacy technicians should wash their hands with soap and water whenever:

Options:

- A- they have time, before eating, and after eating.
- B- their hands are visibly clean, after eating, and before each patient.
- C- they have finished filling prescriptions, before eating, and after each patient.
- D- their hands are visibly dirty, before eating, and after using the restroom.

Answer:

D

Explanation:

According to CDC Hand Hygiene Guidelines, pharmacy technicians should wash their hands with soap and water instead of alcohol-based hand sanitizer when:

Hands are visibly dirty Alcohol-based sanitizers are ineffective against certain contaminants like dirt, grease, and some bacteria.

Before eating Prevents ingestion of harmful pathogens.

After using the restroom Soap and water are required to remove potential fecal contamination.

A . They have time, before eating, and after eating Incorrect

Handwashing is mandatory when hands are dirty or after using the restroom, not just when there's time.

B . Their hands are visibly clean, after eating, and before each patient Incorrect

Washing is not required if hands appear clean---sanitizer is acceptable in most situations except when visibly soiled.

C . They have finished filling prescriptions, before eating, and after each patient Incorrect

Hand hygiene is important, but hand sanitizer is typically used between patients unless hands are visibly dirty.

CDC Hand Hygiene in Healthcare Settings-- Recommends soap and water for visibly soiled hands and after restroom use.

USP <797> Guidelines for Aseptic Technique-- Emphasizes proper handwashing for sterile compounding.

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline-- Covers infection control and hand hygiene protocols.

Why Not the Other Options?Key Reference:

Question 2

Question Type: MultipleChoice

According to the Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP), which of the following is an approved abbreviation?

Options:

- A- U for units
- B- AD for right ear
- C- AU for both ears
- D- gtt for drop

Answer:

D

Explanation:

The Institute for Safe Medication Practices (ISMP) maintains a list of error-prone abbreviations that should not be used in medication orders to prevent misinterpretation and medication errors.

Analysis of the Answer Choices: Abbreviation

Meaning

ISMP Recommendation

U

Units

Do NOT use Can be mistaken for '0' or '4' (e.g., 10U could be misread as 100). Use 'unit' instead.

AD

Right ear

Do NOT use Can be confused with 'OD' (right eye).Use'right ear'instead.

AU

Both ears

Do NOT use Can be confused with 'OU' (both eyes).Use'both ears'instead.

gtt

Drop

Accepted Common and not considered error-prone.

Since'gtt' for drop is not on ISMP's 'Do Not Use' list, it is the correct answer.

ISMP List of Error-Prone Abbreviations-- Confirms that 'U,' 'AD,' and 'AU' should not be used in prescriptions.

Joint Commission 'Do Not Use' List-- Prohibits 'U' and similar abbreviations to prevent dosing errors.

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline-- Covers error prevention strategies, including abbreviation safety.

Key Reference:

Question 3

Question Type: MultipleChoice

Which of the following is a controlled substance?

Options:

- A- Metoprolol
- B- Butorphanol
- C- Carvedilol
- D- Propranolol

Answer:

B

Explanation:

Butorphanolis aSchedule IV controlled substanceunder theControlled Substances Act (CSA). It is

an opioid analgesic used for moderate-to-severe pain and migraine relief. Due to its abuse potential, it is classified as a controlled substance and requires special handling in pharmacies.

A . Metoprolol Incorrect; metoprolol is a beta-blocker for hypertension and heart disease and is not a controlled substance.

C . Carvedilol Incorrect; carvedilol is also a beta-blocker for heart failure and hypertension, not a controlled drug.

D . Propranolol Incorrect; propranolol is a beta-blocker used for hypertension, migraines, and anxiety, but it is not a controlled substance.

Other Answer Choices Explained: Reference:

DEA Controlled Substances List (Schedule IV -- Butorphanol)

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline (Pharmacy Laws & Regulations -- Controlled Substances)

Federal Controlled Substances Act (CSA)

Question 4

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Experiencing photosensitivity as a result of taking ciprofloxacin oral tablets for the first time is an example of a(n):

Options:

A- intended effect.

B- adverse reaction.

C- synergistic effect.

D- anaphylactic reaction.

Answer:

B

Explanation:

Experiencing photosensitivity (increased sensitivity to sunlight) as a result of taking ciprofloxacin is an example of an adverse drug reaction (ADR). This unexpected and undesirable effect occurs in some individuals due to fluoroquinolones causing cellular damage from UV exposure.

A . Intended effect Incorrect; the intended effect of ciprofloxacin is bacterial infection treatment, not photosensitivity.

C . Synergistic effect Incorrect; a synergistic effect occurs when two drugs work together to produce a greater effect, which is not the case here.

D . Anaphylactic reaction Incorrect; anaphylaxis is a severe allergic reaction with respiratory distress, hypotension, and swelling, not photosensitivity.

Other Answer Choices Explained: Reference:

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline (Medication Safety & Side Effects)

Lexicomp Drug Monograph for Ciprofloxacin

FDA Fluoroquinolone Safety Warnings

Question 5

Question Type: Multiple Choice

Which of the following is most likely to be used as a substitute if the non-formulary drug is escitalopram?

Options:

- A- Cabergoline
- B- Ciprofloxacin
- C- Sertraline
- D- Amantadine

Answer:

C

Explanation:

Escitalopram (Lexapro) is a selective serotonin reuptake inhibitor (SSRI) used for major depressive disorder (MDD) and generalized anxiety disorder (GAD). If escitalopram is non-formulary, a suitable alternative would be sertraline (Zoloft), another SSRI with a similar mechanism of action and indication.

A . Cabergoline Incorrect; cabergoline is a dopamine agonist used to treat hyperprolactinemia, not depression or anxiety.

B . Ciprofloxacin Incorrect; ciprofloxacin is a fluoroquinolone antibiotic, unrelated to antidepressant therapy.

D . Amantadine Incorrect; amantadine is an antiviral and antiparkinsonian agent, not used for depression.

Other Answer Choices Explained: Reference:

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline (Pharmacology for Technicians -- Nervous System Drugs)

Lexicomp Drug Monographs for SSRIs (Escitalopram & Sertraline)

Goodman & Gilman's The Pharmacological Basis of Therapeutics

Question 6

Question Type: MultipleChoice

When used in a prescription Sig. "troche" indicates a dosage:

Options:

A- time.

B- form.

C- rate.

D- route.

Answer:

B

Explanation:

In prescription terminology, 'troche' refers to a dosage form, specifically a lozenge that dissolves slowly in the mouth to release medication.

A troche (or lozenge) is a solid, flavored medication that dissolves in the mouth over time, allowing for gradual drug absorption.

Used for:

Local effects (e.g., sore throat relief with benzocaine troches)

Systemic effects (e.g., hormone replacement therapy troches)

A . Time Incorrect

'Troche' doesnotindicate when to take the medication.

C . Rate Incorrect

'Troche' doesnotindicate how fast the drug is absorbed.

D . Route Incorrect

'Troche'describes the dosage form, whilerouterefers to how a drug is administered (e.g., oral, IV).

USP-NF (United States Pharmacopeia--National Formulary)-- Defines dosage forms, including lozenges/troches.

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline-- Covers pharmaceutical dosage forms and prescription terminology.

ISMP Medication Safety Guidelines-- Includes troches in standard medication formulations.

Definition of Troche:Why Not the Other Options?Key Reference:

Question 7

Question Type: MultipleChoice

A patient is prescribed Prilosec capsules for gastroesophageal reflux disease. If thepatient is unable to swallow capsules, they may:

Options:

A- open the capsules and sprinkle the medication on applesauce.

B- chew and swallow the capsules.

C- compound the capsules into a topical preparation.

D- allow the capsules to dissolve under their tongue.

Answer:

A

Explanation:

Prilosec (Omeprazole) is a delayed-release proton pump inhibitor (PPI)used forGERD, ulcers, and acid reflux. It comes incapsulescontainingenteric-coated granules, designed to protect the medication from stomach acid and ensure proper absorption.

Prilosec capsules contain enteric-coated granules that are safe to sprinkle on soft food without chewing.

Applesauce is an ideal option because it does not interfere with drug absorption or stability.

B . Chew and swallow the capsules Incorrect

Chewing destroys the enteric coating, leading to premature drug release and degradation by stomach acid.

C . Compound the capsules into a topical preparation Incorrect

Prilosec is not formulated for topical use. The medication must reach the stomach intact for proper effect.

D . Allow the capsules to dissolve under the tongue Incorrect

Sublingual administration is ineffective because omeprazole is not absorbed through the mucous membranes and needs enteric protection.

FDA Omeprazole Medication Guide-- States that the contents can be sprinkled on applesauce.

ISMP Safe Medication Use Guidelines-- Emphasizes proper administration of delayed-release capsules.

PTCB PTCE Exam Content Outline-- Covers modified-release formulations and proper drug administration techniques.

Why Can the Capsules Be Opened? Why Not the Other Options? Key Reference:

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