Chapter 8: Surveillance and Communicable Diseases

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A nurse working in a community clinic noticed an unusually large number of patients with a specific type of influenza. The nurse knew that the disease was running rampant in other parts of the country, making it ____.
   A. A pandemic
   B. An endemic
   C. An epidemic
   D. Both 1 and 2

   ANS: C

   Objective: 3. Investigate the role of culture and environment in the management of an epidemic.
   pp. 178-179
   Heading: Introduction
   Integrated Processes: Nursing Process
   Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
   Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
   Concept: Infection; Assessment
   Difficulty: Easy

   Feedback
   A  This is incorrect. A pandemic is a global epidemic.
   B  This is incorrect. An endemic signifies a normal number of patients with a specific disease.
   C  An epidemic occurs when there is an increase in cases significantly higher than the usual number.
   D  This is incorrect. An epidemic occurs when there is an increase in cases significantly higher than the usual number. A pandemic is a global epidemic. An endemic signifies a normal number of patients with a specific disease.

   PTS: 1  CON: Infection | Assessment

2. A nurse who treated a patient with a severe respiratory infection incorporates which of the following preventive measures to ensure the disease will not spread to others?
   A. Use personal protection equipment (PPE)
   B. Wash hands frequently
   C. Proper cleaning of patient areas
   D. All of the above

   ANS: D

   Objective: 5. Describe the role of the nurse in prevention and treatment of hospital- and community-acquired infections.
   pp. 179-180
3. When a patient shows symptoms of pneumonia, the nurse knows to first understand three key factors about the disease, including:
A. The infectious agents that cause disease
B. The environment relevant to the transmission of disease from one person to another
C. Who is at risk for becoming infected
D. All of the above
ANS: D

4. A nurse starting a new job in a pediatric clinic is reviewing a list of infectious diseases he or she might encounter in her patients. Which of these are included on her list?
A. Chickenpox
B. Tuberculosis (TB)
C. Group A streptococcus
D. Both 1 and 3
ANS: D
5. Each fall, a public health nurse (PHN) working with the elderly understands that influenza peaks in __ and __, so the PHN checks the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s flu report that tracks trends across the country.
   A. December, February 
   B. October, March 
   C. December, April 
   D. September, February 

   ANS: A

6. A PHN working in an Idaho clinic suspects that a patient—a 30-year-old Hispanic man who was a substance abuser—has HIV/AIDS. Which of the following might have suggested that conclusion?
   A. He is in the 25 to 44 age group where rates are the highest.
   B. He is Hispanic and a substance abuser.
   C. He lives in Idaho, a state with a high percentage of HIV/AIDS patients.
   D. Both 1 and 2

   ANS: D
A nurse volunteering in an African clinic notices many patients have diarrheal disease, which the nurse recognizes is spread by which of the following?

A. Water
B. Food
C. Person-to-person contact
D. All of the above

ANS: D

Although many communicable diseases have been eradicated, new ones are appearing or old ones are morphing into new forms. Which of the following fall into the category of those not yet eradicated?

A. Multiple drug resistant tuberculosis (MDRTB)
B. Smallpox
C. West Nile Virus
D. Both 1 and 3
Feedback

A. MDRTB is a drug-resistant form of TB.
B. This is incorrect. Smallpox has been eradicated.
C. West Nile Virus is a prevalent communicable disease.
D. West Nile Virus and MDRTB are communicable diseases that have not been eradicated.

PTS: 1  CON: Promoting Health | Infection

9. A patient showing signs of pneumonia is admitted to a hospital, where tests indicate he has highly infectious M tuberculosis, and he has had contact with many patients, employees, and family members despite isolation. An investigation team, including a PHN, should take which of the following steps to find out what went wrong?
A. Identify the index case, the first case identified in a particular outbreak.
B. Identify secondary cases, those patients who were diagnosed with active TB and who had contact with the index patient.
C. Identify all contacts.
D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 2. Describe the steps in outbreak investigation.
pp. 182-184

Feedback

A. The first step in this investigation would be identifying the first case.
B. Secondary cases are identified as part of the investigation process.
C. Everyone who had contact with the infected patient should be identified.
D. Some of the steps in an outbreak investigation include identifying the first case, the secondary cases, and all those who had contact with the infected patient.

PTS: 1  CON: Infection | Safety | Critical Thinking

10. When treating patients that may be infectious, nurses are required to institute appropriate isolation procedures based on the known or suspected agent. These procedures are public health interventions aimed at preventing the spread of disease in:
A. Employees
B. Community members
C. Other patients
D. All of the above

ANS: C

Objective: 5. Describe the role of the nurse in prevention and treatment of hospital- and community-acquired infections.

pp. 182-184

Heading: Communicable Disease and the Burden of Disease > Tuberculosis

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

Concept: Infection; Safety

Difficulty: Easy

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Isolation procedures are used to protect employees.</td>
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<td>B. Isolation procedures are used to protect community members who may come in contact with the infected patient.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Isolation procedures are used to protect other patients from getting the disease.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Employees, community members, and other patients are protected when nurses institute appropriate isolation procedures.</td>
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PTS: 1

CON: Infection | Safety

11. PHNs are involved in protecting the population at large from the spread of infectious agents. They must be able to identify elements of the infection cycle in their patients, including

A. Agent of infection characteristics
B. Mode of transmission
C. Lifecycle of an agent of infection
D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 1. Apply the cycle of transmission to specific communicable diseases.

p. 184

Heading: Infectious Agents and the Cycle of Transmission

Integrated Processes: Nursing Process

Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

Concept: Promoting Health; Assessment; Infection; Safety

Difficulty: Moderate

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Identifying characteristics of the agent of infection is part of understanding the infection cycle.</td>
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<td>B. Uncovering the mode of transmission of an infectious agent is an important part of controlling the spread of the agent.</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Knowing the lifecycle of an agent of infection is an essential element in keeping the infection in check.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. To keep an infection from spreading, it is important to identify characteristics of the agent, uncover its mode of transmission, and know its lifecycle.</td>
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PTS: 1

CON: Promoting Health | Assessment | Infection | Safety
12. Infection control nurses in two hospitals located in the same county notice an increase in positive labs for Escherichia coli (E. coli) 0157:H7 infections in their patients. They then join the investigative team and conduct which of the following steps to prevent the spread of the outbreak?
A. Determine if there is an epidemic.
B. Find a common source.
C. Identify the pathogen.
D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 5. Describe the role of the nurse in prevention and treatment of hospital- and community-acquired infections.

pp. 189-192

Heading: Infectious Agents and the Cycle of Transmission > Outbreak Investigation
Integrated Processes: Nursing Process
Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
Concept: Assessment; Infection; Safety
Difficulty: Moderate

Feedback

A. The first step the team should take is to determine if an epidemic has occurred by reviewing related cases.

B. It is important to find a common source, such as tainted food, and isolate it, preventing further spread of the outbreak.

C. Identifying the pathogen by clinical parameters and patient symptoms helps investigators more closely pinpoint the characteristics of the outbreak.

D. Steps that help prevent the spread of an outbreak include determining if an epidemic has occurred, finding a common source, and identifying the pathogen.

PTS: 1

CON: Assessment | Infection | Safety

13. A Baltimore City nurse is aware that from 2003 to 2004 the prevalence of syphilis in the city increased by 40%. As part of the investigative team, the nurse and colleagues assessed the data related to the new syphilis cases and were able to define it as an epidemic using which of the following steps?
A. Determine if the prevalence reached epidemic threshold.
B. Determine the type of epidemic.
C. Review demographic cases.
D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 3. Investigate the role of culture and environment in the management of an epidemic.
p. 193

Heading: Sexually Transmitted Disease
Integrated Processes: Nursing Process
Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
Concept: Assessment; Infection; Critical Thinking; Safety
Difficulty: Moderate

Feedback

A. The epidemic threshold is used to make decisions on alerting the public about a possible epidemic.

B. The type of epidemic relates to the specific mode of transmission.

C. Demographic cases pinpoint the geographical area where the increase is concentrated.

D. Determining if prevalence has reached the epidemic threshold, determining the type of
epidemic, and reviewing demographic cases are important tools that investigators use to define an epidemic.

PTS: 1 CON: Assessment | Infection | Critical Thinking | Safety

14. A nurse working in the emergency department is aware that the flesh-eating bug can be caused by:
   A. Staphylococcus aureus
   B. Clostridium perfringens
   C. Bacteroides fragilis
   D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 4. Discuss current issues related to emerging communicable diseases.
pp. 195-196
Heading: Sexually Transmitted Disease > Risk Factors
Integrated Processes: Nursing Process
Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
Concept: Infection
Difficulty: Moderate

Feedback

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Staphylococcus aureus bacteria can cause the flesh-eating bug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Clostridium perfringens bacteria can cause the flesh-eating bug.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Bacteroides fragilis can cause the flesh-eating bug.</td>
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<tr>
<td>D. Staphylococcus aureus, Clostridium perfringens, and Bacteroides fragilis are three of the bacteria that can cause the flesh-eating bug.</td>
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PTS: 1 CON: Infection

15. While studying communicable diseases, a PHN learns that the main objective is to control the spread of disease by
   A. Changing the environment
   B. Activating the agent
   C. Increasing host resistance
   D. Both 1 and 3

ANS: D

Objective: 1. Apply the cycle of transmission to specific communicable diseases.
pp. 199-200
Heading: Controlling Communicable Diseases
Integrated Processes: Teaching/Learning
Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
Concept: Nursing Roles; Infection; Safety
Difficulty: Moderate

Feedback

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. The spread of disease can be controlled by changing the environment, such as altering or eliminating a reservoir, controlling the vector, applying personal measures of hygiene, or using aseptic technique.</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. This is incorrect. The agent must be deactivated to stop disease spread.</td>
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<td>C. The spread of disease can be stopped by increasing host resistance by administering vaccines, for example.</td>
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Changing the environment and increasing host resistance help stop the spread of communicable diseases.

PTS: 1  CON: Nursing Roles | Infection | Safety

16. Nurses give vaccinations to help increase host resistance to other diseases. Among the vaccines commonly administered are
   A. Pneumonia
   B. Influenza
   C. Smallpox
   D. Both 1 and 2

ANS: D

Objective: 5. Describe the role of the nurse in prevention and treatment of hospital- and community-acquired infections.

pt. 199-200

Feedback

| A | The pneumonia vaccine is given to help increase host resistance to other diseases. |
| B | The influenza vaccine is given to help increase host resistance to other diseases. |
| C | This is incorrect. Smallpox has been eradicated. |
| D | Both pneumonia and influenza vaccines are among those give to increase host resistance to other diseases. |

PTS: 1  CON: Promoting Health | Infection

17. Several factors influence the decisions of public health agencies to make vaccines mandatory. These include
   A. Effectiveness of the vaccine
   B. Where the highest risk exists
   C. Where the lowest risk exists
   D. Both 1 and 2

ANS: D

Objective: 4. Discuss current issues related to emerging communicable diseases.

pt. 199-200

Feedback

| A | Public health agencies consider the effectiveness of a vaccine before making it mandatory. |
| B | Public health agencies consider where the highest risk exists before making a vaccine mandatory. |
This is incorrect. Low risk areas do not need mandatory vaccination.

Among other factors, public health agencies consider effectiveness of vaccines and the highest risk areas before calling for mandatory vaccinations.

PTS: 1  CON: Promoting Health | Assessment | Infection

18. Communicable diseases that a nurse might expect to commonly encounter in patients include:
   A. Chickenpox
   B. TB
   C. Influenza
   D. Both 1 and 3

ANS: A

Objective: 4. Discuss current issues related to emerging communicable diseases.

Feedback

A. A nurse might encounter cases of chickenpox in her practice.
B. This is incorrect. TB is not commonly encountered in a nurse’s practice.
C. A nurse might treat patients with influenza.
D. Both chickenpox and influenza are commonly seen and treated by nurses.

PTS: 1  CON: Infection

19. Categories of infectious agents an infectious disease nurse might expect to encounter in patients include:
   A. Bacteria
   B. Mycoses
   C. Viruses
   D. All of the above

ANS: D

Objective: 5. Describe the role of the nurse in prevention and treatment of hospital- and community-acquired infections.

Feedback

A. Bacteria comprise an infectious agent category that a nurse might note in patients.
B. Mycoses are an infectious agent category that a nurse might note in patients.
C. Viruses are infectious agents that a nurse might see in patients.
D. Common categories of infectious agents include bacteria, mycoses, and viruses.
20. A nurse treats a patient with Lyme disease and notes that ____ act as vectors and transmit the agent from its reservoir to its host.
   A. Hookworms
   B. Anthropods
   C. Protozoa
   D. None of the above

ANS: B
Objective: 4. Discuss current issues related to emerging communicable diseases.
pp. 184-186
Heading: Infectious Agents and the Cycle of Transmission > Agent Characteristics
Integrated Processes: Nursing Process
Client Need: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control
Cognitive Level: Application [Applying]
Concept: Assessment; Infection; Safety
Difficulty: Moderate

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PTS: 1   CON: Assessment | Infection | Safety