

Must-Try NCLEX Practice Questions

These practice questions cover the core areas tested on the NCLEX exam. Working through them helps students identify knowledge gaps and build confidence.

Each question mirrors the style and difficulty of the actual test.

Safe and Effective Care Environment

Question 1: Which Action Should The Nurse Take First When A Fire Alarm Sounds On The Unit?

Answer: Remove patients from immediate danger. The RACE acronym applies: Rescue, Alarm, Contain, Extinguish. Patient safety is always the top priority.

Question 2: A Nurse Receives Orders For Four Patients. Which Patient Should Be Assessed First?

Answer: The patient with chest pain radiating to the left arm. This suggests a cardiac emergency requiring immediate attention. Life-threatening conditions come before stable patients.

Question 3: What Is The Correct Procedure For Verifying Patient Identity Before Medication Administration?

Answer: Check two patient identifiers: name and date of birth. Room numbers should never be used. This prevents medication errors.

Question 4: A Patient Is Placed On Airborne Precautions. What Personal Protective Equipment Must The Nurse Wear?

Answer: An N95 respirator mask. Regular surgical masks don't filter small airborne particles effectively. Proper protection prevents disease transmission.

Question 5: Which Task Can The Registered Nurse Delegate To Unlicensed Assistive Personnel?

Answer: Taking vital signs on a stable patient. UAPs handle basic care tasks. Assessment, medications, and education require RN licensure.

Question 6: A Patient Threatens To Harm A Specific Person. What Is The Nurse's Legal Responsibility?

Answer: Notify the intended victim and authorities. Duty to warn overrides confidentiality when there's a credible threat to safety.

Question 7: What Is The Proper Sequence For Donning Personal Protective Equipment?

Answer: Gown, mask, goggles, then gloves. This order prevents contamination. Gloves go on last because they cover gown cuffs.

Question 8: A Nurse Witnesses A Colleague Taking Narcotics From The Medication Cart. What Should The Nurse Do?

Answer: Report the incident to the nurse manager immediately. Documentation and proper reporting protect patients and maintain professional standards.

Question 9: Which Principle Guides The Nurse When Obtaining Informed Consent?

Answer: The physician must explain the procedure, risks, and alternatives. Nurses can witness the signature but cannot obtain consent themselves.

Question 10: A Patient Refuses A Prescribed Medication. What Is The Nurse's Best Response?

Answer: Ask why the patient is refusing and document the refusal. Patients have the right to refuse treatment. Understanding their concerns helps address issues.

Question 11: What Action Demonstrates Proper Hand Hygiene In Healthcare Settings?

Answer: Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with soap and water or use alcohol-based sanitizer. Hand hygiene is the single most effective way to prevent infection spread.

Question 12: A Nurse Discovers A Medication Error. What Should Be Done First?

Answer: Assess the patient for adverse effects. Patient safety comes first. Then notify the physician and complete an incident report.

Question 13: Which Patient Information Can Be Shared Without Violating HIPAA?

Answer: Information necessary for treatment among healthcare team members. HIPAA allows sharing for treatment, payment, and operations purposes only.

Question 14: What Is The Correct Method For Disposing Of Contaminated Needles?

Answer: Place immediately into a puncture-resistant sharps container without recapping. Recapping causes most needlestick injuries.

Question 15: A Patient's Family Requests Full Medical Information. What Should The Nurse Do?

Answer: Verify the patient has authorized information sharing with this family member. Patient consent is required before disclosing medical information.

Question 16: Which Action Prevents Patient Falls In The Hospital Setting?

Answer: Keep the bed in the lowest position with call light within reach. Environmental modifications reduce fall risk significantly.

Question 17: What Is The Priority When A Patient's IV Pump Alarm Sounds?

Answer: Check the patient and IV site first, then troubleshoot the equipment. Always assess the patient before addressing equipment issues.

Health Promotion and Physiological Integrity**Question 18: A Pregnant Woman Asks About Safe Exercise During Pregnancy. What Should The Nurse Recommend?**

Answer: Moderate exercise like walking or swimming for 30 minutes most days. Avoid contact sports and activities with fall risk. Exercise benefits both mother and baby.

Question 19: What Is The Recommended Immunization Schedule For A 2-Month-Old Infant?

Answer: DTaP, IPV, Hib, PCV13, and Rotavirus vaccines. Following the CDC schedule protects infants from serious diseases during vulnerable periods.

Question 20: A Patient With Diabetes Asks About Foot Care. What Should The Nurse Teach?

Answer: Inspect feet daily, wear proper footwear, and never walk barefoot. Diabetes reduces sensation, making injury detection difficult. Prevention is key.

Question 21: What Dietary Advice Should Be Given To A Patient With Hypertension?

Answer: Limit sodium intake to less than 2,300 mg daily and increase potassium-rich foods. The DASH diet effectively lowers blood pressure.

Question 22: A Mother Asks When To Introduce Solid Foods To Her Infant. What Should The Nurse Say?

Answer: Around 6 months when the baby can sit with support and shows interest in food. Start with iron-fortified cereal and pureed vegetables.

Question 23: What Is The Correct Technique For Performing Breast Self-Examination?

Answer: Examine breasts monthly, one week after menstruation ends, using circular motions from outside to center. Early detection improves outcomes.

Question 24: A Patient Asks About Preventing Osteoporosis. What Should The Nurse Recommend?

Answer: Consume adequate calcium and vitamin D, perform weight-bearing exercise, and avoid smoking. Bone health requires lifelong attention.

Question 25: What Teaching Should A Nurse Provide About Infant Safe Sleep Practices?

Answer: Place babies on their backs to sleep on a firm surface without loose bedding. Room-sharing without bed-sharing reduces SIDS risk.

Question 26: A Patient With COPD Asks About Breathing Exercises. What Should The Nurse Teach?

Answer: Pursed-lip breathing: inhale through nose, exhale slowly through pursed lips. This prevents airway collapse and improves gas exchange.

Question 27: What Are The Warning Signs Of Stroke That Require Immediate Medical Attention?

Answer: Face drooping, arm weakness, and speech difficulty. Use the FAST acronym. Time is critical for stroke treatment effectiveness.

Question 28: A Postoperative Patient Reports Pain Level 7 Out Of 10. What Should The Nurse Do First?

Answer: Administer prescribed pain medication and reassess in 30 minutes. Adequate pain control promotes healing and prevents complications.

Question 29: What Is The Correct Procedure For Administering An Intramuscular Injection?

Answer: Use a 90-degree angle, aspirate if indicated, and inject slowly. Proper technique reduces pain and ensures medication absorption.

Question 30: A Patient Receiving Blood Transfusion Develops Hives And Itching. What Should The Nurse Do?

Answer: Stop the transfusion immediately and keep the IV line open with saline. This indicates an allergic reaction requiring prompt intervention.

Question 31: What Are The Signs Of Hypoglycemia A Diabetic Patient Should Monitor?

Answer: Shakiness, sweating, confusion, and rapid heartbeat. Treating quickly with 15 grams of fast-acting carbohydrates prevents serious complications.

Question 32: A Patient On Warfarin Asks About Dietary Restrictions. What Should The Nurse Explain?

Answer: Maintain consistent vitamin K intake from green leafy vegetables. Sudden changes affect medication effectiveness and clotting times.

Question 33: What Position Should A Patient Be Placed In For Nasogastric Tube Insertion?

Answer: High Fowler's position with neck slightly flexed. This facilitates tube passage and reduces aspiration risk during insertion.

Question 34: A Patient Complains Of Chest Pain. What Assessment Should The Nurse Perform First?

Answer: Check vital signs and assess pain characteristics using PQRST: Provocation, Quality, Region, Severity, Time. This guides appropriate intervention.

Question 35: What Is The Correct Method For Measuring Urine Output From An Indwelling Catheter?

Answer: Empty the drainage bag into a graduated container and measure at eye level. Accurate measurement monitors kidney function and fluid balance.

Question 36: A Patient With Heart Failure Shows Signs Of Fluid Overload. What Should The Nurse Expect To Find?

Answer: Crackles in lungs, edema in extremities, and weight gain. Fluid accumulates when the heart cannot pump effectively.

Question 37: What Teaching Should Be Provided About Proper Inhaler Technique?

Answer: Shake inhaler, exhale fully, press canister while inhaling slowly, and hold breath for 10 seconds. Proper technique ensures medication reaches the lungs.

Question 38: A Patient Post-Appendectomy Develops A Fever. What Should The Nurse Suspect?

Answer: Possible infection at the surgical site or elsewhere. Fever after surgery often indicates complications requiring assessment and possible treatment.

Question 39: What Is The Priority Nursing Action For A Patient Having A Seizure?

Answer: Protect from injury by moving nearby objects and positioning on the side. Never restrain or put anything in the mouth.

Question 40: A Patient On Bed Rest Needs Prevention Of Pressure Ulcers. What Should The Nurse Do?

Answer: Reposition every 2 hours and use pressure-relieving devices. Frequent position changes maintain circulation and skin integrity.

Question 41: What Lab Value Indicates A Patient May Need A Blood Transfusion?

Answer: Hemoglobin below 7 g/dL with symptoms of anemia. Transfusions restore oxygen-carrying capacity when levels drop dangerously low.

Question 42: A Patient Taking Digoxin Shows Signs Of Toxicity. What Should The Nurse Assess?

Answer: Visual changes, nausea, and irregular heartbeat. Digoxin has a narrow therapeutic range, making toxicity common.

Question 43: What Is The Correct Technique For Suctioning A Tracheostomy?

Answer: Apply suction only while withdrawing the catheter, limit to 10-15 seconds, and use sterile technique. This prevents hypoxia and infection.

Question 44: A Patient With Pneumonia Has Difficulty Breathing. What Position Helps Most?

Answer: High Fowler's or semi-Fowler's position. Upright positioning allows maximum lung expansion and easier breathing.

Psychosocial Integrity

Question 45: A Patient Diagnosed With Terminal Cancer States "Why Me?" What Response Shows Therapeutic Communication?

Answer: "This must be very difficult for you." Acknowledge feelings without offering false hope or minimizing their experience.

Question 46: What Is The Priority Intervention For A Patient Expressing Suicidal Thoughts?

Answer: Ensure safety by removing harmful objects and providing constant observation. Safety is the immediate concern before addressing underlying issues.

Question 47: A Patient With Schizophrenia Reports Hearing Voices. What Is The Best Nursing Response?

Answer: "I don't hear voices, but I understand they seem real to you." Acknowledge their experience without reinforcing the hallucination.

Question 48: What Behavior Indicates A Patient May Be Experiencing Alcohol Withdrawal?

Answer: Tremors, increased heart rate, sweating, and anxiety within 6-24 hours after last drink. Severe withdrawal can be life-threatening.

Question 49: A Patient Refuses To Leave Their Room Due To Anxiety. What Should The Nurse Do?

Answer: Spend time with the patient in their room and gradually encourage small steps outside. Forcing participation increases anxiety.

Question 50: What Is The Therapeutic Response To A Patient Who Says "Nobody Cares About Me"?

Answer: "You're feeling alone right now. Tell me more about that." Reflect feelings and encourage expression without dismissing their emotions.

Question 51: A Patient With Depression Shows No Interest In Activities. What Intervention Is Most Appropriate?

Answer: Encourage participation in one simple activity and stay with them. Small successes build momentum toward recovery and engagement.