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1987 NURSING BOARDS REVIEW

FOR THE NCLEX-RN EXAMINATION

A NURSECO BOOK

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Editors: Rose Mary Carroll-Johnson, RN, MN Margo C. Neal, RN, MN

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A NURSECO BOOK

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Foreword

Taking a test is not an activity that most of us cherish. It is stressful regardless of how well prepared we are. Each of you has spent a large portion of your education learning concepts, principles, and theories that pertain to nursing. You have learned about a myriad of nursing responses to health disruptions. The culmination of your learning and experiences comes in the taking of the NCLEX—the registered nurse licensure examination.

You have been taught to assess, plan, implement, and evaluate. You will once again use the same set of problem-solving steps as you approach the test. The AJN 1987 Nursing Boards Review is a tool for assessing your current knowledge and calming your fears about the examination.

Two major factors likely to influence your success on the NCLEX are your level of nursing knowledge, your ability to apply that knowledge, and your level of test anxiety. Some degree of anxiety is beneficial for successful test taking; excessive anxiety impairs the ability to think clearly and critically. By systematically studying this review, you can determine your level of readiness for the examination and plan ways to improve in any areas where you feel deficient.

By using this book, you can become less anxious about test taking through a review of your nursing knowledge, and sample NCLEX-type questions that reinforce the knowledge.

Best wishes for success with NCLEX and throughout your nursing career.

Jeanette Lancaster, RN, PhD

Dean and Professor

Wright State University

Miami Valley School of Nursing

Dayton, Ohio

Preface

Taking an examination is always a stressful procedure. The level of anxiety in any classroom during finals week is so high one can feel the energy it generates. And when the examinations you are facing are the basis for your licensure as a member of your chosen profession, no wonder the thought of those upcoming State Boards has you in a state.

Churn no more!

This book has been designed to make you comfortable and confident in taking and passing the NCLEX (National Council Licensure Examination). In addition to its clinical excellence and its focus on the elements of the nursing process and of decision making, it concentrates on your test-taking abilities and teaches you how to use them to your best advantage. An important aspect of this is stress reduction and so the first section of the book presents relaxation techniques. As you know, the test is multiple-choice and a calm attitude helps you use your best judgment.

The clinical aspects of the book have been developed by expert curriculum committees whose members are all top nurses, masters or doctorally prepared, and experienced in teaching in the AJN Nursing Boards Review courses. All of us at the AJN Company and Williams & Wilkins are most grateful to these talented, knowledgeable, conscientious faculty members. They have spent many hours tailoring the subject matter in the best way possible to trigger your thinking and buttress your learning.

Finally, a word about the AJN Nursing Boards Review course. If you want a still greater sense of security about your exam, please do call us for information about the AJN Nursing Boards Review, or fill out the coupon you'll find at the back of this book. Our toll-free number is 800/223-2282; in New York State, call 212/582-8820 collect.

One thing more—our very best wishes to you for success in the exam and throughout your nursing career.

Thelma M. Schorr, RN
President and Publisher
American Journal of Nursing Company

Introduction

Whether you are graduating from a two-year, three-year, or baccalaureate nursing program, you face one important step on the way to establishing yourself as a registered nurse. That step, as we all know, is passing the state board examination, or the NCLEX, as it is now called (NCLEX stands for National Council Licensure Examination.)

Although your education has prepared you well for this series of tests, every RN preparing to take the NCLEX feels the need for a comprehensive review of her or his nursing studies prior to the big day. The AJN 1987 Nursing Boards Review provides a comprehensive review of nursing knowledge to prepare you, the graduate nurse, to successfully complete the NCLEX.

To use this book most effectively, read the first section on preparing for the examination and stress-reduction techniques. A firm grasp and application of the knowledge in this section will go a long way toward helping you review content and answer the test questions in a relaxed, calm manner. And review this section frequently; it will reinforce the principles that will have you in top form by examination day.

Review one clinical area at a time. Stay with that area until you feel comfortable with your knowledge mastery of it. Do the sections in any order you wish or as they are ordered in the book. If you run across subject matter with which you are unfamiliar, take time to look it up in your textbooks.

Keep in mind that NCLEX emphasizes nursing role and nursing process in caring for the healthy, as well as the ill, client. This emphasis matches the basic concept of the newly revised exam to test "application of the principles of nursing rather than recall of facts." (Dvorak, E. et al. The National Council Licensure Examination for Registered Nurses. Chicago: Chicago Review Press, 1982.)

NCLEX has two focuses. The first is on the steps of the nursing process: assessment, planning and implementation (including setting and establishing priorities for client goals), and evaluation. Second, the focus is on the locus of control in decision making. Is a given decision made by the client? The nurse? Or is it a shared decision? The entire exam consists of four different test parts, each part containing a series of questions regarding nursing care of the adult, child, childbearing family, and emotionally troubled client.

The entire test will be graded as a whole, rather than in separate sections as in the years before 1982. Consider each question carefully. Don't leave questions blank; make a reasonable guess. You will not be penalized for guessing. Of course, your chances of being correct are greater if you can narrow down the four choices to two.

Judicious use of this book, either alone or in conjunction with a review class, will prepare you for successful completion of the licensure exam. It is important to keep in mind, however, not to rely on a review book to teach you new knowledge, but rather to recap and serve as a key to the nursing knowledge you already have. Many students have found marking content with a highlighting pen helpful for quick second-time-through checks.

A particularly valuable feature of this review book is the inclusion of a fine collection of articles from the *American Journal of Nursing* itself. They have been included to enhance the review material. Be sure to read them.

Another feature of this book is its reflection of the women's movement. Aware that language has played a role in reinforcing inequality between the sexes—to the loss of men as well as women—we have attempted to use language in a way that reinforces equality. The most vexing problem in avoiding sexist language is what to do about the "he-she" pronoun. No unisex substitute exists.

We have attempted to avoid stereotyping the nurse as "she" and the client as "he" by alternating the use of the masculine and feminine pronouns. In some sections, the client is referred to as she and, in others, as he.

We have attempted to deal with one or two

parents similarly. Often, there may be only one parent alone, or with a "significant other" who is not the child's parent. This term, too, has been included, sometimes alternately with "partner." Significant other, of course, has a wider scope, referring to anyone—grandparent, brother, sister, roommate, housekeeper—who is significant and personally close in the life of a client of any age.

Whether you see either of these terms, "parent, significant other," in the singular or plural, the point to remember in writing the NCLEX and in the practice of your profession is that your responsibility to your client includes considering the client's relationship with all of his or her significant others.

Finally, over 375 sample questions, written in the style of the examination, are provided. They have

been purposefully mixed and not included at the end of each section in order to more closely simulate the actual test situation.

How do you know if you have enough knowledge to pass NCLEX or not? This is difficult to answer; however, the persons who write the NCLEX advise their readers that 75 percent correct answers is a good cutoff point. In other words, if you are wrong more than 25 percent of the time, you need to spend more time reviewing.

Those of us from the American Journal of Nursing Company and Williams & Wilkins who have worked on the production of this book wish you the very best of luck with your review efforts, the examinations, and ultimately, with your nursing career.



Contents

Section 1: Preparing for the NCLEX 1 PREPARING FOR SUCCESS ON THE NCLEX-RN 3	Selected Health Problems 48 Chronic Confusion 48			
STRESS-REDUCTION TECHNIQUES 7 Section 2: Nursing Care of the Client	General Concepts 50 Overview 50 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with an			
with Psychosocial Problems 11	Affective Disorder 50 Selected Health Problems 52			
INTRODUCTION 13 Overview 13	A. Depression 52 B. Elation and Hyperactive Behavior 58			
Scope of the Profession 13 Interpersonal Relationships 14 Roles Assumed by the Nurse 14 Locations of Practice 15 Psychosocial Characteristics of the Healthy Client 15	SOCIALLY MALADAPTIVE/ACTING OUT BEHAVIOR 60 General Concepts 60 Overview 60 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Exhibiting			
THERAPEUTIC USE OF SELF 19 Theoretical Knowledge Base 19 Nurse-Client Relationship 23 Nursing Process 25 Treatment Modalities 26	Maladaptive Behavior 60 Selected Health Problems 61 A. Violence in the Family 61 B. Hostile, Aggressive, and Assaultive Behavior 64 C. Acting Out 67 D. Sexual Acting Out 68			
Concepts 28 Overview 28 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Experiencing a Loss 29 Selected Health Problems 29 A. Loss 29 B. Death and Dying 30	E. Antisocial Behavior 72 SUSPICIOUS BEHAVIOR 75 General Concepts 75 Overview 75 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Exhibiting Suspicious Behavior 75 Selected Health Problem 75 Paranoia 75			
LEGAL ASPECTS OF PSYCHIATRIC NURSING 34 Civil Procedures 34 Criminal Procedures 35 Territories 35 Judicial Precedents 35 Role of the Nurse 35	WITHDRAWN BEHAVIOR 77 General Concepts 77 Overview 77 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Exhibiting Withdrawn Behavior 82 Selected Health Problems 86			
ANXIOUS BEHAVIOR 36 General Concepts 36 Overview 36 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Exhibiting Anxious Behavior 36 Selected Health Problems 37	A. Paranoid Schizophrenia 86 B. Catatonic Schizophrenia 86 C. Undifferentiated Schizophrenia 87 D. Childhood Schizophrenia 87 E. Psychotic Disorders not Elsewhere Classified 87			
A. Anxiety 37 B. Phobias 40 C. Dissociative Reactions 41 D. Obsessive-Compulsive Disorders 41 E. Anorexia Nervosa 42 F. Psychosomatic Disorders 43 G. Conversion Disorders 45 H. Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders 46	SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS 89 General Concepts 89 Overview 89 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with a Substance Use Disorder 90 Selected Health Problems 91 A. Alcohol 91 B. Drugs Other than Alcohol 96			
CONFUSED BEHAVIOR 48 General Concepts 48 Overview 48 Application of the Nursing Process to the Client Exhibiting Confused Behavior 48	GLOSSARY 98 REPRINTS 105 Hardiman, M. 'Interviewing? Or Social Chit-Chat?'' 107 Neal, M. et al. "Assessment of Mental Status." 110 "Stress Management." 112			

DiMotto, J. "Relaxation." 114

Neal, M. Et al. "Behavior Modification." 119

Westercamp, T. "Suicide." 121

Harris, E. "Sedative-Hypnotic Drugs." 124

DeGennaro, M. et al. "Antidepressant Drug Therapy." 130
Harris, E. "Lithium." 136
______. "Antipsychotic Medications." 142

"Extrapyramidal Side Effects of Antipsychotic

Medications." 150

Section 3: Nursing Care of the Adult 157

THE HEALTHY ADULT 159

SURGERY 164

Overview 164

Perioperative Period 164

Discharge 167

OXYGENATION 170

General Concepts 170

Overview 170

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with

Oxygenation Problems 172

Selected Health Problems 176 A. Cardiopulmonary Arrest 176

B. Shock 178

C. Angina Pectoris 179

D. Myocardial Infarction 181

E. Dysrhythmias 185

F. Congestive Heart Failure 188

G. Hypertension 191

H. Peripheral Vascular Disease 193

I. Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) or Chronic Obstructive Lung Disease (COLD) 196

J. Pneumonia 199

K. Tuberculosis 201

L. Chest Tubes and Chest Surgery 203

M. Cancer of the Lung 205

NUTRITION AND METABOLISM 208

PART ONE: THE DIGESTIVE TRACT 208

General Concepts 208

Overview 208

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with Digestive Tract Problems 210

Selected Health Problems 217

A. Hiatus Hernia 217

B. Gastritis 217

C. Peptic Ulcer Disease 218

D. Diverticulosis/Diverticulitis 224

E. Appendicitis 225

F. Cholecystitis with Cholelithiasis 225

G. Pancreatitis 226

H. Hepatitis 227 I. Cirrhosis 229

J. Complications of Liver Disease: Esophageal Varices, Ascites, Hepatic Encephalopathy 231

PART TWO: THE ENDOCRINE SYSTEM 233

General Concepts 233

Overview 233

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with

Endocrine System Problems 235

Selected Health Problems 236

A. Hyperpituitarism 236 B. Hypopituitarism 236 C. Hyperthyroidism 237

D. Hypothyroidism 238

E. Hyperparathyroidism 239

F. Hypoparathyroidism 240

G. Hyperfunction of the Adrenal Glands 240

H. Hyposecretion of the Adrenal Glands 241

I. Hypofunction of the Pancreas: Diabetes Mellitus 243

ELIMINATION 250

PART ONE: THE KIDNEYS 250

General Concepts 250

Overview 250

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with

Kidney Problems 252

Selected Health Problems 257

A. Cystitis/Pyelonephritis 257

B. Urinary Calculi 258

C. Cancer of the Bladder 259

D. Acute Renal Failure 260

E. Chronic Renal Failure 262

F. Dialysis 264

G. Kidney Transplantation 270

H. Benign Prostatic Hypertrophy 271

I. Cancer of the Prostate 273

PART TWO: THE LARGE BOWEL 274

General Concepts 274

Overview 274

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with Large Bowel Problems 274

Selected Health Problems 276

A. Alteration in Normal Bowel Evacuation 276

B. Inflammatory Bowel Disease (Regional Enteritis, Crohn's Disease, Ulcerative Colitis) 277

C. Total Colectomy with Ileostomy 280

D. Mechanical Obstruction of the Colon 281

E. Cancer of the Colon 282

F. Hemorrhoids or Anal Fissure 282

SAFETY AND SECURITY 285

General Concepts 285

Overview 285

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with Safety and Security Problems 288

Selected Health Problems of the Nervous System 293

A. Acute Head Injury 293 B. Intracranial Surgery 294

C. Cerebrovascular Accident 295

D. Meningitis 296

E. Spinal Cord Injuries 297

F. Parkinson's Disease (Parkinsonism) 299

G. Multiple Sclerosis 300

H. Epilepsy 302

I. Myasthenia Gravis 304

Selected Health Problems of the Sensory System 306

A. Cataracts 306

B. Retinal Detachment 307

C. Glaucoma 308

D. Nasal Problems Requiring Surgery 309

E. Epistaxis 309

F. Cancer of the Larynx 310

ACTIVITY AND REST 313

General Concepts 313

Overview 313

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with Activity and Rest Problems 314

Selected Health Problems 315

A. Fractures 315

B. Fractured Hip (Proximal End of Femur) 317

C. Amputation 318

D. Arthritis 319

E. Collagen Disease 322

F. Herniated Nucleus Pulposus 323

CELLULAR ABERRATION 326

General Concepts 326

Overview 326

Application of the Nursing Process to the Client with Cancer 327

Selected Health Problems 332

A. Cancer of the Lung 332

B. Cancer of the Bladder 332

- C. Cancer of the Prostate 332
- D. Cancer of the Colon 332
- E. Cancer of the Larynx 332
- F. Cancer of the Cervix 332
- G. Cancer of the Breast 333

REPRINTS 337

Heidrich, G. et al. "Helping the Patient in Pain." 339 Long, M. et al. "Hypertension: What Patients Need to

Know." 345 Neal, M. et al. "Hyperalimentation." 351

Chambers, J. "Bowel Management in Dialysis Patients." 352

"The Person with a Spinal Cord Injury." 354

Section 4: Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family

FEMALE REPRODUCTIVE ANATOMY AND PHYSIOLOGY 375

ANTEPARTAL CARE 381

General Concepts 381

Normal Childbearing 381

Overview of Management 385

Application of the Nursing Process to Normal Childbearing,

Antepartal Care 386

High-Risk Childbearing 389

Application of the Nursing Process to High-Risk

Childbearing 394

Selected Health Problems 394

- A. Abortion 394
- B. Incompetent Cervical Os 395
- C. Ectopic Pregnancy 395 D. Hydatidiform Mole 396
- E. Placenta Previa 397
- F. Abruptio Placentae 398
- G. Pregnancy-Induced Hypertension 399
- H. Diabetes 401
- I. Cardiac Disorders 402
- J. Anemia 404
- K. Infections 404
- L. Multiple Gestation 405
- M. Adolescent Pregnancy 407

INTRAPARTAL CARE 408

General Concepts 408

Normal Childbearing 408

Ongoing Management and Nursing Care 411

Application of the Nursing Process to Normal Childbearing, Intrapartal Care 416

Selected Health Problems 420

- A. Dystocia 421
- B. Premature Labor 423
- C. Emergency Birth 425
- D. Induction 425
- E. Episiotomy 426
- F. Forceps 427
- G. Vacuum Extraction 428
- H. Cesarean Birth 428
- I. Rupture of the Uterus 430
- J. Amniotic Fluid Embolism 430

POSTPARTAL CARE 432

General Concepts 432

Normal Childbearing 432

Application of the Nursing Process to Normal Childbearing, Postpartal Care 434

Selected Health Problems 437

- A. Postpartum Hemorrhage 437
- B. Hematoma 438
- C. Puerperal Infection 439
- D. Mastitis 440
- E. Postpartum Cystitis 441

- F. Uterine Prolapse With or Without Cystocele or Rectocele 441
- G. Uterine Fibroids 442
- H. Pulmonary Embolus 443
- I. Psychologic Maladaptations 443

THE NORMAL NEONATE 444

Definition 444

General Characteristics 444

Specific Body Parts 445

Systems Adaptations 448

Gestational Age Variations 450

Application of the Nursing Process to the Normal Neonate 452

THE HIGH-RISK NEONATE 457

General Concepts 457

Definition 457

Antepartum Risk Factors 457

Selected Health Problems 457

- A. Hypothermia 457
- B. Neonatal Jaundice 457
- C. Respiratory Distress 459
- D. Hypoglycemia 461
- E. Neonatal Infection 462
- F. Neonatal Narcotic Drug Addiction 463
- G. Fetal Alcohol Syndrome 463
- H. Intracranial Hemorrhage 464
- I. Brain Injuries 464
- J. Neonatal Necrotizing Enterocolitis 465
- K. Congenital Anomalies 465
- L. Parental Reaction to a Sick, Disabled, or Malformed Infant 466

REPRINTS 469

Neal, M. "Birth Control: Permanent Methods." 471

_. "Birth Control: Temporary Methods." 473

"Drugs: Birth Control Pills." 476

Floyd, C. "Pregnancy after Reproductive Failure." 478 Hoffmaster, J. "Detecting and Treating Pregnancy-Induced

Hypertension: A Review." 482 Perley, N. et al. "Herpes Genitalis and the Childbearing Cycle." 490

Grad, R. et al. "Obstetrical Analgesics and Anesthesia: Methods of Relief for the Patient in Labor." 495

Blackburn, S. "The Neonatal ICU: A High Risk Environment." 499

Pearson, L. "Climacteric." 504

Section 5: Nursing Care of the Child 511

THE HEALTHY CHILD 513

THE ILL AND HOSPITALIZED CHILD 525

OXYGENATION 532

General Concepts 532

Overview 532

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Respiratory Problems 532

Selected Health Problems Resulting in an Interference with Respiration 533

- A. Sudden Infant Death Syndrome or "Crib Death" 533
- B. Acute Spasmodic Laryngitis (Spasmodic Croup) 534
- C. Acute Epiglottitis 534
- D. Laryngotracheobronchitis 535
- E. Bronchiolitis 536
- F. Bronchial Asthma 536

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Cardiac Problems 538

Selected Health Problems Resulting in an Interference with Cardiac Functioning 540

Congenital Cardiac Disorders 540

Rheumatic Fever 545

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Hematologic Problems 546

Selected Health Problems Resulting in an Interference with Formed Elements of the Blood

A. Iron-Deficiency Anemia 547

B. Sickle Cell Anemia 548

C. Hemophilia 550

NUTRITION AND METABOLISM 552

General Concepts 552

Overview 552

Application of Nursing Process to the Child with Problems of Nutrition and Metabolism 552

Selected Health Problems 553

A. Failure to Thrive Syndrome 553

B. Vomiting and Diarrhea 554

C. Pyloric Stenosis 556

D. Cleft Lip and Palate 556

E. Cystic Fibrosis 558

F. Insulin-Dependent Diabetes Mellitus 560

ELIMINATION 562

General Concepts 562

Overview 562

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Elimination Problems 562

Selected Health Problems 563

A. Hypospadias 563

B. Urinary Tract Infection 564

C. Nephrosis and Nephritis 564

D. Lower GI Obstruction 566

SAFETY AND SECURITY 568

General Concepts 568

Overview 568

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Neurologic or Sensory Problems 568

Selected Health Problems: Neurologic and Sensory Deficits 570

A. Mental Retardation 570

B. Down's Syndrome (Mongolism) 571

C. Cerebral Palsy 572 D. Hydrocephalus 573

E. Spina Bifida 574

F. Seizure Disorders 575

G. Bacterial Meningitis 577

H. Otitis Media 578

I. Tonsillitis, Tonsillectomy and Adenoidectomy 579 Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with a Communicable Disease 580

Selected Health Problems: Communicable Diseases, Skin Infections, Infestations 580

A. Communicable Diseases 580

B. Sexually Transmitted Diseases 582

C. Common Skin Infections and Infestations 584

D. Pinworms 584

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with an Interference with Safety 584

Selected Health Problems: Interference with Safety 584

A. Poisonous Ingestions 584

B. Burns 589

ACTIVITY AND REST 595

General Concepts 595

Overview 595

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Interferences with Activity and Rest 595

Selected Health Problems 599

A. Congenital Club Foot 599

B. Congenital Hip Dysplasia 599

C. Scoliosis 600

D. Osteomyelitis 601

CELLULAR ABERRATION (CHILDHOOD CANCER) 602

General Concepts 602

Overview 602

Application of the Nursing Process to the Child with Cancer 602

Selected Health Problems 606

A. Leukemia 606

Hodgkin's Disease 608

C. Brain Tumors 609

D. Neuroblastoma 611

Wilm's Tumor (Nephroblastoma) 611

REPRINTS 615

Sheredy, C. "Factors to Consider when Assessing Responses to Pain." 617

Sacksteder, S. "Congenital Cardiac Defects: Embryology and Fetal Circulation." 620

Ruble, I. "Childhood Nocturnal Enuresis." 624 Meier, E. "Evaluating Head Trauma in Infants and Children." 630

Coughlin, M. "Teaching Children about their Seizures and Medications." 634

Jackson, P. "Ventriculo-peritoneal Shunts." 636

Seleckman, J. "Immunization: What's It All About?" 642

Section 6: Questions and Answers 649

BOOK ONE QUESTIONS 651

BOOK ONE ANSWERS 662

BOOK TWO OUESTIONS 667

BOOK TWO ANSWERS 677

BOOK THREE QUESTIONS 682

BOOK THREE ANSWERS 693

BOOK FOUR OUESTIONS 698

BOOK FOUR ANSWERS 710

Tables and Figures

Section 2: Nursing Care of the Client with **Psychosocial Problems**

2 1	PERSONAL PROPERTY.		3 4 - 3 - 1 -	00
2.1	1 neoi	retical	Models	20

- 2.2 Social Determinants of Mental Health and Illness 21
- 2.3 Life-Cycle Stages 22
- 2.4 Communication Skills in the Nurse-Client Relationship 24
- Manifestations of Anxiety 37
- 2.6 Minor Tranquilizers 39
- 2.7 Antidepressants 51
- 2.8 Suicide Methods 55
- 2.9 Major Tranquilizers 80
- 2.10 Side Effects of Major Tranquilizers 81
- 2.11 Selected Problem Behaviors and Interventions 83

Section 3: Nursing Care of the Adult

- 3.1 General Anesthesia 166
- 3.2 Regional Anesthesia 166
- 3.3 Stages of General Anesthesia 166
- 3.4 Calculating IV Rates 167
- 3.5 Analgesics
- 3.6 Emergency Drugs 177
- 3.7 Coronary Vasodilators 181
- 3.8 Adrenergic Blockers 181
- 3.9 Blood Tests For Myocardial Infarction 183
- 3.10 Anticoagulants 184
- 3.11 Anticoagulant Antagonists 184
- 3.12 Approximate Sodium Content in Selected Food Items 185
- 3.13 Cholesterol and Saturated Fat Content in Selected Food Items 186
- 3.14 Congestive Heart Failure 188
- 3.15 Cardiac Glycosides 189
- 3.16 Antihypertensives 191
- 3.17 Foods High in Potassium 192
- 3.18 Adrenergics 195
- 3.19 Bronchodilators (Xanthine Derivatives) 197
- 3.20 Expectorants 198
- 3.21 Mucolytics 198 3.22 Antibiotics 200
- 3.23 Antituberculous Drugs 202
- 3.24 Gastrointestinal Hormones 208
- 3.25 Digestive Enzymes 209
- 3.26 Acid-Base Imbalance 212
- 3.27 Fluid Imbalance 213
- 3.28 Electrolyte Imbalances 214
- 3.29 Drug Therapy for Peptic Ulcer Disease 220
- 3.30 Dietary Worksheet 221
- 3.31 Sample Therapeutic Diets 222
- 3.32 Hormones 234
- 3.33 Steroids 242
- 3.34 Hypoglycemics 244

- 3.35 Diabetic Meal Planning with Exchange Lists 245
- 3.36 Differentiating Hypoglycemia from Ketoacidosis 247
- 3.37 Laboratory Tests Used to Evaluate Renal Function
- 3.38 Urinary Antiseptics 257
- 3.39 Sulfonamides 257
- 3.40 Diuretics 262
- 3.41 Modifications of Food, Fluid, and Electrolyte Intake in Renal Failure 264
- 3.42 Low Protein Diet Sample Menu 265
- 3.43 Prostatectomies 272
- 3.44 Laxatives 276
- 3.45 Antidiarrheals 277
- 3.46 Comparison of Crohn's Disease and Ulcerative Colitis 278
- 3.47 Foods to be Avoided on Low Residue Diets 279
- 3.48 Cranial Nerves 286
- 3.49 Parasympathetic and Sympathetic Effects 287
- 3.50 Spinal Cord 297
- 3.51 Antiparkinsonian Drugs 300
- 3.52 Anticonvulsants 303
- 3.53 Cholinergics 304
- 3.54 Anticholinergics 305
- 3.55 Anti-Inflammatory Drugs 321
- 3.56 Chemotherapeutic Agents
- 3.57 Antiemetics 332

FIGURES

- 3.1 The Normal Heart 171
- Pressures in the Vascular System 172
- Areas of Auscultation of Heart Valves
- 3.4 Pulmonary Volumes and Capacities of an Adult 175
- 3.5 Distribution of Typical Anginal Pain 180
- 3.6 Coronary Blood Supply 182
- 3.7 Myocardial Infarction 182
- Typical Enzyme Patterns After an Acute Myocardial Infarction 183
- 3.9 Pattern for Rotating Tourniquets 190
- 3.10 Common Manifestations of Chronic Arterial and Venous Peripheral Vascular Disease 194
- 3.11 Water-Seal Chest Drainage 204
- 3.12 Pleur-evac System 205
- 3.13 Components of the Kidney 251
- 3.14 Components and Functions of the Nephron 251
- 3.15 Schematic Representation of Dialysis 266
- 3.16 Normal Male Anatomy 271
- 3.17 The Eye (Horizontal Section) 287
- 3.18 Decorticate Posturing 290
- 3.19 Decerebrate Posturing 291
- 3.20 Areas of the Brain that Control Certain Motor and Sensory Functions 296

Section 4: Nursing Care of the Childbearing Family

TABLES

- 4.1 Assessment of Fertility/Infertility 379
- 4.2 Signs and Symptoms of Pregnancy 384

X TABLES AND FIGURES

- 4.3 Naegele's Rule 386
- 4.4 McDonald's Rule 386
- 4.5 Recommended Dietary Allowances for Females Aged 11-50 389
- 4.6 Pregnant Woman's Daily Food Intake 390
- 4.7 Laboratory Studies of Fetal Well-being 391
- 4.8 Classification of Eclampsia 399
- 4.9 Magnesium Sulfate 401
- 4.10 Baseline FHR-No Contractions 411
- 4.11 Decelerations in FHR During Contractions 413
- 4.12 Stages and Phases of Labor 415
- 4.13 Uterine Dysfunction in Labor 420
- 4.14 Ritodrine Hydrochloride 424
- 4.15 Bishop's Scale 426
- 4.16 Oxytocin 427
- 4.17 Lochia Changes 432
- 4.18 Maternal Psychologic Adaptation 434
- 4.19 Nutritional Comparison of Human and Cow's Milk 450
- 4.20 High-Risk Conditions for Neonates by Gestational Age and Growth Classification 451
- 4.21 Apgar Scoring Chart 453

FIGURES

- 4.1 Female Pelvis 375
- 4.2 Female External Reproductive Organs 377
- 4.3 Female Internal Organs 377
- 4.4 Basal Body Temperature (28-Day Cycle) 378
- 4.5 Common Site of Ectopic Pregnancy 395
- 4.6 Hydaditiform Mole 396
- 4.7 Placenta Previa 397
- 4.8 Abruptio Placentae 398
- 4.9 Six Possible Fetal Positions with Cephalic Presentation 409
- 4.10 Tracing of Normal Fetal Heart Rate 410
- 4.11 Types of Decelerations in Fetal Heart Rate 412
- 4.12 Tracing of Acceleration of Fetal Heart Rate in Response to Uterine Activity 413
- 4.13 Assessment of Uterine Contractions 414
- 4.14 Friedman Curve 422
- 4.15 Types of Episiotomies 427
- 4.16 Types of Cesarian Incisions 429
- 4.17 Bones, Fontanels, and Sutures of Newborn's Skull 446

- 4.18 Newborn Maturity Rating and Classification 454
- 4.19 Rh Sensitization 458
- 4.20 Silverman-Andersen Scale 460

Section 5: Nursing Care of the Child

TABLES

- 5.1 Erikson's First Five Stages of Psychosocial Development 514
- 5.2 Vital Sign Ranges in Children 515
- 5.3 Average Daily Caloric Needs of Infants and Children 515
- 5.4 American Academy of Pediatrics Recommended Immunization Schedule 516
- 5.5 Contraindications for Immunization 517
- 5.6 Commonly Used Pediatric Restraints 526
- 5.7 Medication and Temperature Guide 529
- 5.8 Medication Administration for Young Children 530
- 5.9 Medications Used to Treat Bronchial Asthma 537
- 5.10 Cardiac Catheterization in Children: Nursing Considerations 539
- 5.11 Normal Blood Cells 547
- 5.12 Insulin-Dependent Diabetes in the Child 560
- 5.13 Comparison of Nephrosis and Nephritis 565
- 5.14 Levels of Mental Retardation 571
- 5.15 Signs of Increased Intracranial Pressure in Infants and Older Children 574
- 5.16 Sexually Transmitted Diseases 582
- 5.17 Common Skin Infections and Infestations 585
- 5.18 Commonly Ingested Poisonous Substances 586
- 5.19 Systemic Responses to Burn Injury 589
- 5.20 Types of Traction 596
- 5.21 Commonly Used Chemotherapeutic Drugs 603
- 5.22 Staging of Hodgkin's Disease 608

FIGURES

- 5.1 Normal and Abnormal Hearts 541
- 5.2 Common Modes of Genetic Transmission 549
- 5.3 Estimation of Burn Surface Area 590
- 5.4 Types of Traction 597
- 5.5 Petalled Cast Edges 599

Section 1 Preparing for the NCLEX

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