Postoperative and recovery room care

Learning outcomes:

- ➢ To manage the recovery of patients from general anaesthesia
- ➢ To describe the organisation and requirements of a safe recovery room
- ➢ To identify and manage common postoperative complications in patients with a variety of co-morbidities
- ➢ To manage postoperative pain and nausea and vomiting
- ➢ To manage postoperative fluid therapy
- ➢ Safely manage emergence from anaesthesia and extubation
- ➢ Shows awareness of common immediate postoperative complications and how to manage them
- ➢ Prescribes appropriate postoperative fluid and analgesic regimes
- ➢ Assess and treats PONV

Knowledge			
Competence	*Description*	*Assessment Method*	*GMP*
PO_BK_01	Lists the equipment required in the recovery unit	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_02	Lists the types of monitoring and the appropriate frequency of observations required for patients having undergone different types of surgery	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_03	Describes the care of an unconscious patient in the recovery room, including safe positioning	A,C,D,E	1,2
PO_BK_04	In respect of restoring spontaneous respiration and maintaining the airway at the end of surgery: • Explains how to remove the tracheal tube and describes the associated problems and complications • Recalls/describes how to manage laryngospasm at extubation • Recalls/lists the reasons why the patient may not breathe adequately at the end of surgery • Recalls/identifies how to distinguish between the possible causes of apnoea • Lists the possible causes of postoperative cyanosis • Describes how to evaluate neuro-muscular block with the nerve stimulator	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_05	With respect to oxygen therapy: • Lists its indications • Lists the techniques for oxygen therapy and describes the performance characteristics of available devices • Recalls/explains the causes and management of stridor	A,C,E	1,2

Knowledge

Competence	Description	Assessment Method	GMP
PO_BK_06	Outlines/recalls the principles of appropriate postoperative fluid regimes including volumes, types of fluids and monitoring of fluid balance including indications for urethral catheterisation	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_07	In respect of postoperative pain: • Describes how to assess the severity of acute pain • Describes the 'analgesic ladder' • Discusses how emotions contribute to pain • Identifies appropriate postoperative analgesic regimes including types of drugs and doses • Explains how to manage 'rescue analgesia' for the patient with severe pain • Lists the complications of analgesic drugs	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_08	In respect of PONV: • Recognises the impact of PONV • Lists the factors that predispose to PONV • Describes the basic pharmacology of anti-emetic drugs • Describes appropriate regimes for prevention and treatment of PONV	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_09	Describes the possible causes and management of postoperative confusion	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_10	Describes the causes and management of postoperative hypotension and hypertension	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_11	Identifies premorbid disease states that may require patients to have higher (level 2 or 3) levels of care in the postoperative period.	A,C,E	1,2
PO_BK_12	Describes the prevention, diagnosis and management of postoperative pulmonary atelectasis	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_13	Lists the appropriate discharge criteria for patients leaving the recovery room and day stay patients	A,C,E	1
PO_BK_14	Explains the importance of following up patients in the ward after surgery	A,C,E	1,2,3

Skills

Competence	Description	Assessment Method	GMP
PO_BS_01	Performs safe tracheal extubation	A,D	1
PO_BS_02	Evaluates neuromuscular blockade using a nerve stimulator	A,D	1,2
PO_BS_03	Transfers an unconscious patient from the operating theatre to the recovery room	A,C,D	1,2
PO_BS_04	Turns a patient into the recovery position	A,D	1

Knowledge

Competence	Description	Assessment Method	GMP
PO_BS_05	Makes a clear handover to recovery staff of perioperative management and the postoperative plan	A,D,M	1,3
PO_BS_06	Prescribes appropriate postoperative fluid regimes	A,C	1
PO_BS_07	Assesses postoperative pain and prescribes appropriate postoperative analgesia	A,C,D	1,3
PO_BS_08	Manages postoperative nausea and vomiting	A,C	1
PO_BS_09	Assesses postoperative confusion	A,C	1
PO_BS_10	Recognises when discharge criteria have been met for patients going home or to the ward	A,C,D	1,2,3
PO_BS_11	Undertakes follow-up visits to patients after surgery on the ward	A,C,D	1