BASIC ARRHYTHMIA TEST MODULE ONE

PREPARATION FOR TESTING

Competency in Basic Arrhythmia Recognition is required for your position because you work in an area where patients undergo cardiac monitoring. You will be expected to complete the BASIC ARRHYTHMIA TEST MODULE ONE which focuses on ARRHYTHMIA RECOGNITION (as detailed below). But first, you should read the following information very carefully and follow the steps outlined below.

**Step One.** Complete the two-day basic arrhythmia class. Information about the class can be found on the Vanderbilt Nursing website:

- [www.vanderbiltnursing.com](http://www.vanderbiltnursing.com)
- Click on **Spotlights and Events**
- Click on **Educational Offerings Index**
- Click on **Basic Arrhythmia Class**
- Click on **BA Course Registration** through LMS

Log on to LMS, then:

- Click on **Search Box** (on the far left)
- Type in **Basic Arrhythmia Class**
- Click on **Basic Arrhythmia Class**
- Select desired class date
- Click **Register**

The **basic arrhythmia course manual** is required for the class. It is distributed to new employees at clinical orientation. The manual is also available from Nursing Education and Development.

If you want to “test-out” of the two-day basic arrhythmia class, you should obtain the basic arrhythmia course manual to study and prepare for the Basic Arrhythmia Test Module One. You may attempt to “test-out” only with the approval of your unit educator and/or manager.

**Step Two.** Read and study the basic arrhythmia course manual to ensure that you can meet the expectations outlined below.

You will be expected to:

1. Correctly label monitoring electrodes for a five-cable lead system
2. Accurately determine:
   - PP interval
   - RR interval
   - Atrial rate (for both regular and irregular rhythms)
   - Ventricular rate (for both regular and irregular rhythms)
   - PR interval
   - QRS composition (Q wave, R wave, S wave)
   - QRS width
   - QT interval
3. Correctly interpret (name) select rhythms including:
   Sinus Rhythm
   Sinus Bradycardia
   Sinus Tachycardia
   Premature Ventricular Beat
   Premature Atrial Beat
   Junctional Rhythm
   Atrial Flutter
   Atrial Fibrillation
   Supraventricular Tachycardia
   Ventricular Tachycardia
   Ventricular Fibrillation
   Asystole
   Idioventricular Rhythm
   Second Degree Block – Type 1
   Second Degree Block – Type 2
   Second Degree Block with 2:1 conduction
   Complete (Third Degree) Block
   Paced Rhythms (including Atrial, Ventricular, and Atrio-Ventricular)

**Step Three.** Work at least 30-40 of the 117 practice tracings in the basic arrhythmia course manual (pp. 66-111). Note that a complete key is provided for all 117 practice tracings.

**Step Four.** When you are ready to test, register for a test time and date:
   www.vanderbiltnursing.com
   Click on Spotlights and Events
   Click on Educational Offerings Index
   Click on Basic Arrhythmia Testing
   Click on BA Testing Registration through LMS

Log on to LMS, then:
   Click on Search Box (on the far left)
   Type in Basic Arrhythmia Test
   Click on Basic Arrhythmia Test
   Select desired class date and time
   Click Register

Basic Arrhythmia Test Module One consists of 40 questions (multiple choice and true/false) and includes 15-18 rhythm tracings. Each question has only one correct answer. You will need to bring calipers and a copy of the rate chart to the testing site. You should anticipate 1-1½ hours to complete the test. A score of 85% is the required passing score.

**ARE YOU READY TO TEST YOUR SKILL IN BASIC ARRHYTHMIA RECOGNITION?**

To assess you readiness to test, answer the three sample questions that follow. The correct answers are given at the end of the sample questions.
1. In the following tracing, the PR interval is:
   a. 0.04-0.08 second
   b. 0.16-0.18 second
   c. Variable
   d. 0.08-0.12 second

2. In the following tracing, the QRS is composed of a/an:
   a. R wave and S wave
   b. Q wave
   c. Q wave, R wave, and S wave
   d. R wave

3. The following tracing is an example of:
   a. Idioventricular rhythm
   b. Ventricular tachycardia
   c. Atrial fibrillation
   d. Ventricular fibrillation

Answers:
1. b
2. a
3. d