

## NAPLEX<sup>Q&As</sup>

North American Pharmacist Licensure Examination

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**QUESTION 1**

Which of the following medication should be avoided in patients with heart failure?

- A. Cilostazol
- B. Pioglitazone
- C. Naproxen
- D. Celebrex
- E. All of the above

Correct Answer: E

Patients with heart failure should avoid taking NSAIDs (which includes naproxen), COX-2 inhibitors, nondihydropyridine calcium channel blockers (for reduced EF), thiazolidinediones (which includes pioglitazone), cilostazol, and dronedarone (for severe or recently decompensated heart failure).

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**QUESTION 2**

Which of the following would you use for aspiration pneumonia with an intention to cover anaerobes?

- A. Piperacillin-Tazobactam
- B. Cefepime
- C. Ampicillin-sulbactam
- D. Cefazolin
- E. Levofloxacin

Correct Answer: C

Cefepime, levofloxacin, cefazolin does not provide good coverage of anaerobes. Ampicillin-sulbactam and piperacillin-tazobactam provide anaerobic coverage.

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**QUESTION 3**

Select the class of Anti-diabetic medication that works in the specified organ to prevent hyperglycemia. Select all that applies. Alpha cells in pancreases

- A. Sulfonylureas
- B. Alpha- Glucosidase Inhibitors
- C. DPP4 Inhibitors
- D. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists

E. Thiazolidinediones

F. Biguanide

G. SGLT2 inhibitors

Correct Answer: C

DPP4 Inhibitors, D Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists Sulfonylureas work in beta cells in the pancreas that are still functioning to enhance insulin secretion. Alpha-Glucosidase Inhibitors stop glucosidase enzymes in the small intestine and delay digestion and absorption of starch and disaccharides which lowers the levels of glucose after meals. DPP4 blocks the degradation of GLP-1, GIP, and a variety of other peptides, including brain natriuretic peptide. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists work in various organs of the body. Glucagon-like peptide-1 receptor agonists enhance glucose homeostasis through: (i) stimulation of insulin secretion; (ii) inhibition of glucagon secretion; (iii) direct and indirect suppression of endogenous glucose production; (iv) suppression of appetite; (v) enhanced insulin sensitivity secondary to weight loss; (vi) delayed gastric emptying, resulting in decreased postprandial hyperglycaemia. Thiazolidinediones are the only true insulin-sensitising agents, exerting their effects in skeletal and cardiac muscle, liver, and adipose tissue. It ameliorates insulin resistance, decreases visceral fat. Biguanides work in liver, muscle, adipose tissue via activation of AMP-activated protein kinase (AMPK) reduce hepatic glucose production. SGLT2 inhibitors work in the kidneys to inhibit sodium-glucose transport proteins to reabsorb glucose into the blood from muscle cells; overall this helps to improve insulin release from the beta cells of the pancreas.

Reference: <https://doi.org/10.1093/eurheartj/ehv239>

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#### QUESTION 4

If a patient takes 0.5mg of intravenous hydromorphone every 4hrs what would be the equivalent orals total daily dose? Hydromorphone oral to parenteral ratio 7.5:1.5.

A. 15mg

B. 20mg

C. 10mg

D. 5mg

E. 7.5mg

Correct Answer: A

To determine the dose conversion IV to PO, the ratio of PO to IV needs to be determined, this is  $7.5 / 1.5$  which is 5. This number means that the PO dose is 5 times more than the IV dose to get the same amount of drug into the bloodstream. If the patient is taking 0.5 mg IV then the PO dose would be 0.5 mg multiplied by 5, which is 2.5 mg. Since the patient is taking the medication every 4 hours the patient is receiving 6 doses,  $24\text{hrs}/4\text{hrs} = 6$ . Since the patient is receiving 2.5 mg every dose and is receiving 6 doses a day, the patient is receiving 15 mg, 2.5 mg multiplied by 6 doses.

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#### QUESTION 5

In Normal distribution, what percentage of the sample is found within 2 standard deviation of the mean?

A. 68%

- B. 95%
- C. 99%
- D. 100%
- E. 72%

Correct Answer: B

In a normal distribution sample, within 1 standard deviation 68% of the sample falls within 1 standard deviation, 95% within 2 standard deviations, and 99.7% within 3 standard deviations of the mean.

Reference: <http://www.bmj.com/about-bmj/resources-readers/publications/statistics-square-one>

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