

Self-Directed Learning Topics for DCCQ for Medical Students



Below are topics and questions that you should think about and gain some understanding of by the end of your attachment with us on the intensive care unit. They do not need to be 'signed off' – they are for your benefit, to monitor your own progress and highlight any areas that need particular attention. Many will be covered in formal teaching sessions and on ward rounds but also over a cup of coffee is a good opportunity.

Topic	Tick
General	
Examining the ICU patient	
How to read the patient's ICU chart	
How to present patients on ward round	
Basic ventilator modes	

Airway	
Managing the airway in an unconscious patient	
The importance of a capnograph	

Breathing	
Lung protective strategies – ARDSnet protocol	
Indications and use of non invasive ventilation	

Circulation	
Interpretation of arterial blood gases	
Clinical assessment of cardiac output	
Managing a peri-arrest patient secondary to circulatory failure	
Managing atrial fibrillation	
Cardiac output monitoring –PiCCO	
Inotropes and vasopressors – when and which to use	
*When to prescribe blood	
Assessment of fluid responsiveness	
Therapeutic hypothermia post cardiac arrest	

Renal/Fluid	
Clinical assessment of fluid status	
Which fluids to prescribe	

Interpretation of fluid balance data	
The urine output is low” –what do I do?	
Colloids versus crystalloids	
Causes of renal failure	
Indications for renal replacement therapy	

Sepsis	
Antibiotics in septic shock - Kumar	
Septic screen of the ICU patient	
Goal directed therapy in septic shock	
Steroids in septic shock	
Definitions of SIRS, sepsis, severe sepsis, septic shock	

Gastrointestinal/ nutrition	
Confirm NGT placement	
Enteral and parenteral feeding	

Neuro/pain	
Management of head injuries – maintaining CPP	
Drugs used for sedation and analgesia on ICU	
Delerium	

Metabolic	
Blood glucose control – tight control or prevent hyperglycaemia?	

Others	
Diagnosis of brain stem death	
Organ donation – DBD and DCD	