Review **assessment, interventions, monitoring, and care** for conditions commonly encountered in cath lab nursing, including:

- Ablation, indication for SVT, complications
- Arterial line complications
- Balloon pump, indications and expected outcomes
- Bi-ventricular pacing, indication for decreased systolic function and low EF
- Cardiac tamponade, signs and symptoms
- Cardiogenic shock, cardiac index values
- Cardioversion
- Contrast allergy, pre-medication
- Coronary artery dissection, emergency treatment
- PA waveform interpretation
- Pacing therapy, indications and types
- RCA occlusion, rhythm disturbance
- Renal insufficiency, lab value monitoring
- Retroperitoneal hemorrhage, signs and symptoms
- Ventricular fibrillation
- Ventricular tachycardia

Review action, preparation, monitoring, and precautions related to **medications** commonly used in cath lab, such as

- Clopidogrel (Plavix®) calculation
- Diphenhydramine, pre-medication
- Heparin protocol
- IV drops/ minute calculation
- IV infusion calculation, administration via large vein or central line
- Nitroglycerin (Tridil®)
- Nitroprusside, hypotension
- Norepinephrine, indication
- Procedural sedation medications and reversal agents

Review **calculations**, including

- Medication protocols
- IV drip dosage calculations
- IV drip rate, calculating drops per minute
To calculate the infusion rate: IV drip rate in drops per minute =

Volume to be infused (mL) over 1 hour/ Drop factor constant

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Common drop factors</th>
<th>Drop factor constant</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60 gtt/mL - minidrip set</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 gtt/mL – regular drip set</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 gtt/mL – regular drip set</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Common drop factors are also known as the clock method – drop factors are obtained by dividing 60 minutes by the number of gtts per mL that the IV set delivers.

Review treatments and procedures, including

- Arterial catheter and sheath, removal, possible complications
- Blood transfusion reaction
- Defibrillation, synchronized cardioversion/biphasic defibrillator
- Emergent cardiac bypass surgery, indications

Review cardiac rhythm strip interpretation, including

- ECG finding, MI
- ECG rhythm strip interpretation:
  - Ventricular tachycardia (V-tach)
  - V-fib

A great source for ACLS protocol review is www.acls.net

A great source for rhythm review is the RN.com course Telemetry Interpretation

Also recommended:

- ECG Library (Jenkins, J & Gerrend, S., 2009)
  http://www.ecglibrary.com/ecghome.html
Review **Laboratory Results** commonly encountered in cath lab nursing, such as

- BUN/Creatinine, indication for renal sufficiency

Review principles and practices related to **safety and infection prevention**, including

- Fall risk, benzodiazepines/elderly
- Handwashing, C. diff
- Patient identifiers

Review measures to prevent **CMS Hospital Acquired Conditions**

- Air embolus, risk with arterial catheter
- Blood incompatibility
- DVT prevention, heparin protocol
- Glycemic control
- Risk for falling

Review principles and practices of **communication with patients and family**, including

- Demand pacemaker, action
- Patient satisfaction
- Balloon pump, benefit