

Nursing2006[®]

DECEMBER 2006

VOLUME 36, NUMBER 12



18

6 EDITOR'S NOTE

Cut red tape by using protocols

8 LETTERS

Improving patient safety...free online access...still working at 73

10 ADVICE, P.R.N.

Disturbed by physician's order...informed consent snafu...crushing pills...homeopathic remedies

14 MEDICATION ERRORS

Unlikely pair...indications for acetyl-cysteine...latex allergy...misread handwriting

17 CONTROLLING PAIN

Postpolio syndrome

18 CLINICAL DO'S AND DON'TS

Assisting with thoracentesis

20 PATIENT SAFETY NEW

Preventing syncope after immunization

22 WOUND AND SKIN CARE

Perineal dermatitis or pressure ulcer?

24 CLINICAL QUERIES

Are NSAIDs safe?

25 NURSING2006 FOUNDATION

How you can help

26 EYE ON DIAGNOSTICS

Malignant hyperthermia

28 ETHICAL PROBLEMS

Honoring final wishes...suspected drug diversion...intubation impasse

30 INFOBYTES

Radio frequency identification

31 CHART SMART

Admission interviews

32 DRUG NEWS

New strategy to prevent diabetes...annual infusion may curb osteoporosis...

using risperidone in children with autism...safer alternative to heparin?

66 YOUR LIFE

Healthy foods...phishing warning...holiday tips...driving alert

68 SELF-TEST

ACLS challenge

70 MYTHS AND FACTS

About factor V Leiden

71 COMBATING INFECTION

ECG wire colonization

12 How to Reach Us

72 Advertisers' Index

74 Classified Advertisements

*After page 64...

Hospital section feature:

Vertebral compression fractures

Critical care feature:

Methemoglobinemia

*If you work in a hospital or in critical care but don't see that section in this issue, please call our customer service department at 1-800-879-0498

Practice pointers from this issue of Nursing2006

- **In severe hypothermia** the patient may develop life-threatening cardiac dysrhythmias, such as ventricular fibrillation and asystole (p. 46).
- **With few exceptions**, a competent adult has the right to refuse treatment, even if his decision is life-threatening (p. 49).
- **Perform chest compressions**—not abdominal thrusts—in an unresponsive victim with a foreign-body airway obstruction (p. 51).
- **Restarting nutrition** in a person in a state of starvation can trigger a life-threatening metabolic complication called refeeding syndrome (p. 55).
- **Cigarette smoking** increases the risk of kidney cancer by about 40% (p. 59).

E-Newsletters from Nursing2006

Keep up with the latest news and tools...

Students: Visit

www.nursingcenter.com/ANS

Staff-development instructors: Visit

www.nursingcenter.com/SD



Home health and hospice nurses: Visit <http://www.nursingcenter.com/HHU>

CEs coming next month

- Acetaminophen overdose
- Brain tumors

Nursing journal has been peer-reviewed and evidence-based since 1971.

NURSING2006 (ISSN 0360-4039; online ISSN 1538-9689), a **double-blind peer-reviewed** journal, is published monthly by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins, with editorial, publishing, and advertising headquarters at 325 North Street, Suite 200, Ambler, PA 19002-2758. Phone: 215-646-8700. Periodicals postage paid at Ambler, PA 19002, and additional offices. © 2006 by Lippincott Williams & Wilkins. All world rights reserved. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this issue is accurate and compatible with the standards generally accepted at the time of publication. Nevertheless, they can't be considered absolute and universal. The journal's content is not influenced by advertisers who support the journal by purchasing advertising space. The publisher disclaims any liability, loss, or damage incurred as a consequence, directly or indirectly, of the use and application of any of the contents.

SUBSCRIPTION INFORMATION: Individual yearly subscription rates: \$34 a year in the United States; Can\$59 a year in Canada; A\$69 a year in Australia and New Zealand; \$69

a year elsewhere. Institutional rates: \$116 a year in the United States; \$126 a year in Canada (plus GST); foreign, \$169 plus \$7 postage. Single copy \$6.00. Annual single copy price is \$72. Canadian GST #R123739294. Produced in U.S.A. Canadian copies mailed under Canadian Publishers Agreement #40011658, customer number #429848 in Windsor, Ontario. Return Canadian undeliverable addressed mail to *Nursing2006*, Postal Locator 325, P.O. Box 3098, STN LCD Malton Mississauga, ON L4T 9Z9.

CUSTOMER SERVICE: Address all inquiries to *Nursing2006*, P.O. Box 55332, Boulder, CO 80522 or fax to 1-303-604-7786. Or check on www.lww.com, customer service, or e-mail to nursing@lwwdata.com. In the U.S. and Canada, please call 1-800-879-0498. In Australia or elsewhere, please call 1-850-682-7644.

POSTMASTER: Send changes of address to *Nursing2006*, P.O. Box 55332, Boulder, CO 80522



Winner of Folio magazine's
2004 Silver and 2003 Gold
Editorial Excellence Awards.



Winner of three
ASHPE awards
for 2006



Proud Platinum Sponsor of



NURSES
for a Healthier Tomorrow