Neuro

Points to Ponder

**Spina Bifida**

\_ Protection of the sac

\_positioning

\_Know and understand that this defect can occur anywhere along the spine. Therefore, children may have multiple problems. (Example…incontinent bowel and bladder, paralysis, etc)

\_**READ-** Meningomyelocele and Meningocele in the chapter….understand the difference. **Nursing care is the same!**

**Hydrocephalus**

**\_**Clinical manifestations – bulging fontanel, high pitched cry, irritability, sun setting sign, increased head circumference, headache, nausea and vomiting (Parents must be taught these signs)

Based on the clinical findings above make sure signs and symptoms of ICP are understood.

\*the best indicator for recognizing problems with shunts for the parent is/are high pitch cry, change in LOC but for the nurse caring for the patient **….increased head circumference** and or **bulging fontanel** is the best indicator\*

\_**Shunts** are the treatment for Hydrocephalus. Know and understand nursing management.

**Seizures**

\_Know what to do during a seizure (KEEP THE PATIENT SAFE!!! Patent airway, type of movement, time the seizure)

-Know what the postictal period is after a Grand Mal seizure

-Nursing considerations and Patient teaching for **Dilantin**

**Meningitis**

**\_**Clinical manifestations-irritability, fever, nuchal rigidity, photophobia, headaches, vomiting, bulging fontanel

\_Due to photophobia- be able to pick out items that you would *remove* from a patient’s room

\_Bacterial Meningitis**- ISOLATION, IV antibiotics**

**\_**When would you **start** the antibiotics??????

**\_**Laboratory findings for Bacterial Meningitis- **KNOW THESE...**cloudy CSF, increased protein, decreased glucose

**Cerebral Palsy-** most common cause of CP is prematurity and low birth weight (NICU babies)

\_Children may present with multiple problems! No cure

\_PT/OT braces and walkers, physical therapy needed **to challenge affected limbs**

Be able to pick out assistive devices that provide the *greatest challenge* to children with limited abilities.