Fellowship SAQs

A 22 year old male presents having taken an overdose 2hours ago. His family state he may have taken aspirin.

1. What clinical features might the patient have (4) (any of)
2. GIT
   * 1. nausea and vomiting.
     2. There can be significant dehydration, from this as well as increased insensible respiratory losses.
3. Eighth cranial nerve involvement:
   * 1. Tinnitus
     2. Deafness
     3. Vertigo
4. Respiratory:
   * 1. An ARDS (non-cardiogenic pulmonary edema) type syndrome may occur.
5. Hyperthermia.
6. CNS:
   * 1. Confusion/ altered conscious state.
     2. Seizures
     3. Cerebral oedema with coma and death.
7. State 2 biochemical abnormalities that might be evident (2)
8. Hypergylcaemia
9. Hypoglycaemia
10. Respiratory alkalosis
11. Mixed respiratory alkalosis and metabolic acidosis
12. Hypokalaemia
13. What are the indications for urinary alkalinisation? (2)
    1. Symptomatic poisoning
    2. Acid-base abnormalities
    3. Serum salicylate levels > 2.2 mmol/L
14. What patients can be discharged? (2)
15. Asymptomatic.
16. Two falling salicylate levels within the therapeutic range, 3 - 4 hours apart.
17. Normal biochemical results, including ABGs.
18. Low risk psychiatric assessment