

Chapter 01: Overview of Professional Nursing Concepts for Medical-Surgical Nursing

Ignatavicius: Medical-Surgical Nursing, 10th Edition

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A new nurse is working with a preceptor on a medical-surgical unit. The preceptor advises the new nurse that which is the **priority** when working as a professional nurse?
 - a. Attending to holistic client needs
 - b. Ensuring client safety
 - c. Not making medication errors
 - d. Providing client-focused care

ANS: B

All actions are appropriate for the professional nurse. However, ensuring client safety is the priority. Health care errors have been widely reported for 25 years, many of which result in client injury, death, and increased health care costs. There are several national and international organizations that have either recommended or mandated safety initiatives. Every nurse has the responsibility to guard the client's safety. The other actions are important for quality nursing, but they are not as vital as providing safety. Not making medication errors does provide safety, but is too narrow in scope to be the best answer.

DIF: Understanding

TOP: Integrated Process: Nursing Process: Intervention

KEY: Client safety

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

2. A nurse is orienting a new client and family to the medical-surgical unit. What information does the nurse provide to best help the client promote his or her own safety?
 - a. Encourage the client and family to be active partners.
 - b. Have the client monitor hand hygiene in caregivers.
 - c. Offer the family the opportunity to stay with the client.
 - d. Tell the client to always wear his or her armband.

ANS: A

Each action could be important for the client or family to perform. However, encouraging the client to be active in his or her health care as a safety partner is the most critical. The other actions are very limited in scope and do not provide the broad protection that being active and involved does.

DIF: Understanding

TOP: Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

KEY: Client safety

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

3. A nurse is caring for a postoperative client on the surgical unit. The client's blood pressure was 142/76 mm Hg 30 minutes ago, and now is 88/50 mm Hg. What action would the nurse take **first**?
 - a. Call the Rapid Response Team.
 - b. Document and continue to monitor.
 - c. Notify the primary health care provider.
 - d. Repeat the blood pressure in 15 minutes.

ANS: A

The purpose of the Rapid Response Team (RRT) is to intervene when clients are deteriorating before they suffer either respiratory or cardiac arrest. Since the client has manifested a significant change, the nurse would call the RRT. Changes in blood pressure, mental status, heart rate, temperature, oxygen saturation, and last 2 hours' urine output are particularly significant and are part of the Modified Early Warning System guide. Documentation is vital, but the nurse must do more than document. The primary health care provider would be notified, but this is not more important than calling the RRT. The client's blood pressure would be reassessed frequently, but the priority is getting the rapid care to the client.

DIF: Applying TOP: Integrated Process: Communication and Documentation

KEY: Rapid Response Team (RRT), Clinical judgment

MSC: Client Needs Category: Physiological Integrity: Physiological Adaptation

4. A nurse wishes to provide client-centered care in all interactions. Which action by the nurse **best** demonstrates this concept?
- Assesses for cultural influences affecting health care.
 - Ensures that all the client's basic needs are met.
 - Tells the client and family about all upcoming tests.
 - Thoroughly orients the client and family to the room.

ANS: A

Showing respect for the client and family's preferences and needs is essential to ensure a holistic or "whole-person" approach to care. By assessing the effect of the client's culture on health care, this nurse is practicing client-focused care. Providing for basic needs does not demonstrate this competence. Simply telling the client about all upcoming tests is not providing empowering education. Orienting the client and family to the room is an important safety measure, but not directly related to demonstrating client-centered care.

DIF: Understanding

TOP: Integrated Process: Culture and Spirituality

KEY: Client-centered care, Culture

MSC: Client Needs Category: Psychosocial Integrity

5. A client is going to be admitted for a scheduled surgical procedure. Which action does the nurse explain is the **most** important thing the client can do to protect against errors?
- Bring a list of all medications and what they are for.
 - Keep the provider's phone number by the telephone.
 - Make sure that all providers wash hands before entering the room.
 - Write down the name of each caregiver who comes in the room.

ANS: A

Medication reconciliation is a formal process in which the client's actual current medications are compared to the prescribed medications at the time of admission, transfer, or discharge. This National client Safety Goal is important to reduce medication errors. The client would not have to be responsible for providers washing their hands, and even if the client does so, this is too narrow to be the most important action to prevent errors. Keeping the provider's phone number nearby and documenting everyone who enters the room also do not guarantee safety.

DIF: Applying TOP: Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning

KEY: Client safety, Informatics

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

6. Which action by the nurse working with a client **best** demonstrates respect for autonomy?
- Asks if the client has questions before signing a consent.
 - Gives the client accurate information when questioned.
 - Keeps the promises made to the client and family.
 - Treats the client fairly compared to other clients.

ANS: A

Autonomy is self-determination. The client would make decisions regarding care. When the nurse obtains a signature on the consent form, assessing if the client still has questions is vital, because without full information the client cannot practice autonomy. Giving accurate information is practicing with veracity. Keeping promises is upholding fidelity. Treating the client fairly is providing social justice.

DIF: Applying TOP: Integrated Process: Caring KEY: Ethics, Autonomy
MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

7. A nurse asks a more seasoned colleague to explain best practices when communicating with a person from the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning/queer (LGBTQ) community. What answer by the faculty is **most** accurate?
- Avoid embarrassing the client by asking questions.
 - Don't make assumptions about his or her health needs.
 - Most LGBTQ people do not want to share information.
 - No differences exist in communicating with this population.

ANS: B

Many members of the LGBTQ community have faced discrimination from health care providers and may be reluctant to seek health care. The nurse would never make assumptions about the needs of members of this population. Rather, respectful questions are appropriate. If approached with sensitivity, the client with any health care need is more likely to answer honestly.

DIF: Understanding TOP: Integrated Process: Teaching/Learning
KEY: Health care disparities, LGBTQ MSC: Client Needs Category: Psychosocial Integrity

8. A nurse is calling the on-call health care provider about a client who had a hysterectomy 2 days ago and has pain that is unrelieved by the prescribed opioid pain medication. Which statement comprises the background portion of the SBAR format for communication?
- "I would like you to order a different pain medication."
 - "This client has allergies to morphine and codeine."
 - "Dr. Smith doesn't like nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory meds."
 - "This client had a vaginal hysterectomy 2 days ago."

ANS: B

SBAR is a recommended form of communication, and the acronym stands for *Situation, Background, Assessment, and Recommendation*. Appropriate background information includes allergies to medications the on-call health care provider might order. *Situation* describes what is happening right now that must be communicated; the client's surgery 2 days ago would be considered background. *Assessment* would include an analysis of the client's problem; none of the options has assessment information. Asking for a different pain medication is a recommendation. *Recommendation* is a statement of what is needed or what outcome is desired.

DIF: Applying TOP: Integrated Process: Communication and Documentation

KEY: Teamwork and collaboration, SBAR

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

9. A nurse working on a cardiac unit delegated taking vital signs to an experienced assistive personnel (AP). Four hours later, the nurse notes that the client's blood pressure taken by the AP was much higher than previous readings, and the client's mental status has changed. What action by the nurse would **most** likely have prevented this negative outcome?
- Determining if the AP knew how to take blood pressure
 - Double-checking the AP by taking another blood pressure
 - Providing more appropriate supervision of the AP
 - Taking the blood pressure instead of delegating the task

ANS: C

Supervision is one of the five rights of delegation and includes directing, evaluating, and following up on delegated tasks. The nurse would either have asked the AP about the vital signs or instructed the AP to report them right away. An experienced AP would know how to take vital signs and the nurse would not have to assess this at this point. Double-checking the work defeats the purpose of delegation. Vital signs are within the scope of practice for a AP and are permissible to delegate. The only appropriate answer is that the nurse did not provide adequate instruction to the AP.

DIF: Analyzing TOP: Integrated Process: Communication and Documentation

KEY: Teamwork and collaboration, Delegation

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

10. A newly graduated nurse in the hospital states that because of being so new, participation in quality improvement (QI) projects is not wise. What response by the precepting nurse is **best**?
- "All staff nurses are required to participate in quality improvement here."
 - "Even being new, you can implement activities designed to improve care."
 - "It's easy to identify what indicators would be used to measure quality."
 - "You should ask to be assigned to the research and quality committee."

ANS: B

The preceptor would try to reassure the nurse that implementing QI measures is not out of line for a newly licensed nurse. Simply stating that all nurses are required to participate does not help the nurse understand how that is possible and is dismissive. Identifying indicators of quality is not an easy, quick process and would not be the best place to suggest a new nurse to start. Asking to be assigned to the QI committee does not give the nurse information about how to implement QI in daily practice.

DIF: Applying TOP: Integrated Process: Communication and Documentation

KEY: Systems thinking, Quality improvement

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

11. A nurse is talking with a co-worker who is moving to a new state and needs to find new employment there. What advice by the nurse is **best**?
- Ask the hospitals there about standard nurse–client ratios.
 - Choose the hospital that has the newest technology.
 - Find a hospital that has achieved Magnet status.
 - Work in a facility affiliated with a medical or nursing school.

ANS: C

Client Magnet status is awarded by The Joint Commission (TJC) and certifies that nurses can demonstrate how best current evidence guides their practice. New technology doesn't necessarily mean that the hospital is safe. Affiliation with a health profession school has several advantages, but safety is most important.

DIF: Understanding

TOP: Integrated Process: Communication and Documentation

KEY: Evidence-based practice, Magnet status

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

MULTIPLE RESPONSE

1. A nurse manager wishes to ensure that the nurses on the unit are practicing at their highest levels of competency. Which areas would the manager assess to determine if the nursing staff demonstrate competency according to the Institute of Medicine (IOM) report *Health Professions Education: A Bridge to Quality*? (Select all that apply.)
- Collaborating with an interprofessional team
 - Implementing evidence-based care
 - Providing family-focused care
 - Routinely using informatics in practice
 - Using quality improvement in client care
 - Formalizing systems thinking when implementing care

ANS: A, B, D, E

The IOM report lists five broad core competencies that all health care providers should practice. These include collaborating with the interprofessional team, implementing evidence-based practice, providing patient-focused care, using informatics in client care, and using quality improvement in client care. Systems thinking is required for quality improvement but is not a specified part of the IOM report.

DIF: Remembering

TOP: Integrated Process: Nursing Process: Assessment

KEY: Competencies, Institute of Medicine (IOM)

MSC: Client Needs Category: Safe and Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

2. A nurse is interested in making interprofessional work a high priority. Which actions by the nurse **best** demonstrate this skill? (Select all that apply.)
- Consults with other disciplines on client care.
 - Coordinates discharge planning for home safety.
 - Participates in comprehensive client rounding.
 - Routinely asks other disciplines about client progress.