

Case Study – Diarrhea

Susan a 48 year old female admitted to the hospital with watery diarrhea eight times a day for the last two days. She also complains of cramping and abdominal tenderness. Her temperature has been 100.0 – 101.4 degrees Fahrenheit for the last 3 days. She has attempted to take Tylenol which lowers the temp slightly but causes more stomach discomfort. Her stool appearance is watery with some white bloody substance it. She hasn't had an appetite.

VS: BP 95/54, T: 101.5, P: 102, R: 22, Pain 5 on scale 0-10, O2 Sat 96% on room air.

White blood count – 13.32

Positive for Clostridium Difficile (C-Diff).

Medications:

Metronidazole 500 mg by mouth 3 times a day.

Nursing Process:

Assessment

Analysis/Problem

Planning/Implementation

Evaluation

Questions:

1. Who is at high risk of contracting C-Diff?
2. What precautions would you expect to be taken in the hospital?
3. What other diagnostic testing should be ordered?
4. What questions should the nurse ask the patient?
5. What should the nurse teach the patient?
6. What nursing diagnoses would be relevant?