

Scenario 3: Dehydration

- 1) List in order of priority your initial nursing actions identified for Eva Madison based on physical findings and family interaction.

After completing my universal competencies such as patient/parent ID, handwashing, and asking for allergies, I first decided to get a set of vital signs including constant BP and O2 Sat, temperature, respirations and heart rate. I then asked some questions to help me better understand the child's pain and had her rate her pain using a face pain scale. Next, I decided to listen to her lungs and stomach, assess her skin turgor and mucous membranes. This is where I confirmed the child was dehydrated along with her vital signs and needed fluids quickly especially due to her history of vomiting and diarrhea. I began to assess her IV and start administering the fluids the doctor ordered for, and afterwards assessed respirations again and notified the doctor of my findings.

- 2) What complications might Eva Madison face if her symptoms are not recognized and treated in a timely manner?

Eva's moderate dehydration status could escalate to severe dehydration and even hypovolemic shock if not treated in a timely manner.

- 3) What measures should be initiated to decrease anxiety in Eva Madison's mother while simultaneously caring for Eva?

A top measure would be to educate the mother on Eva's diagnosis and involve her in a plan of care for her child. Reassuring her regarding Eva's condition and treatment could help decrease her anxiety along with making her feel in the loop with her daughter's care.

- 4) Reflecting on Eva Madison's case, were there any actions you would do differently? If so, what were these actions, and why would you do them differently?

Since the patient had been vomiting, I would have provided an emesis basin to the patient in case she needed to throw up again and sat her head of bed up to a comfortable level to help prevent aspiration. These actions would help implement safety and address one of her initial symptoms, besides the dehydration status.

- 5) Describe how you would apply the knowledge and skills you obtained in Eva Madison's case to an actual patient care situation.

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I now feel prepared to be able to assess a child who is suspected of dehydration, and would prioritize patient/ caregiver education on how to assist the child while they are dehydrated by increasing fluids and educating on a proper diet, as well as identifying when they need to seek medical attention.