

Surgical Case 2: Stan Checketts

Guided Reflection Questions

1. How did the scenario make you feel?

The scenario made me feel well prepared and I knew what to do by following the provider orders. I felt confident following the orders and administering PRN medications as Stan needed them.

2. When reflecting on the care of Stan Checketts, what are signs and symptoms you can assess in the next patient you care for who might be at risk for dehydration?

Dry mucous membranes, colored urine, fatigue, and weakness are some signs and symptoms of dehydration.

3. Discuss signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock.

Cold, clammy skin, tachycardia, low blood pressure, and tachypnea are some signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock.

4. Discuss assessment and expected findings in a small bowel obstruction.

Stan was experiencing abdominal pain, fatigue, and weakness. Others could experience vomiting, constipation, loss of appetite, and the inability to have a bowel movement.

5. What key questions does the nurse ask in an acute abdominal pain assessment?

Is there any history that could precipitate the small bowel obstruction?
How long has the pain occurred?

What does the pain feel like and where?

6. In evaluating Stan Checketts' laboratory values, what if any abnormalities did you find?

His sodium level, creatinine, Hgb & Hct, and WBC were all abnormal.

7. Stan Checketts had a nasogastric (NG) tube inserted for gastric decompression. What are the preferred methods for confirming placement of the NG tube?

A chest x-ray would confirm placement.

8. What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient? Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format.

Give relevant data such as age, gender, pertinent history

Inform the physician what the patient came in with:

- Abdominal pain
- Nausea and vomiting

Give assessment data such as the NG tube placement, X-ray data, and what the abdomen sounded like upon auscultation

Recommend we prep the OR and get the patient ready for surgery

9. What would you do differently if you were to repeat this scenario? How would your patient care change?

There isn't anything I would do differently. I would do the same patient care and provide comfort for the patient.