

## Guided Reflection Questions for Surgical Case 2: Stan Checketts

### Opening Questions

How did the scenario make you feel?

When going into this scenario, I felt pretty confident that I would know what to do. I just followed the doctors' orders and made a 100% on my first try. I feel like I handled the situation and cared for my patient appropriately.

### Scenario Analysis Questions\*

**PCC/EBP/S** 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?

Some signs and symptoms that I can assess for dehydration in my future patients will be: poor skin turgor, dry skin, dizziness, weakness, oliguria, cap refill. I can also look at vital signs to tell me a lot about the patient's condition.

**EBP/QI** Discuss signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock.

Low blood pressure, cool and clammy skin, confusion, pale, rapid breathing, anxiety.

**PCC/EBP** Discuss assessment and expected findings in a small bowel obstruction.

You would expect to see abdominal pain, cramping, nausea, tender stomach, bloating, gas or fluids in small intestine.

**PCC/S/I/EBP** What key questions does the nurse ask in an acute abdominal pain assessment?

Where is the pain located? What caused the pain? What is pain level on scale from 0-10? When did the pain start and what were you doing? What does the pain feel like?

**PCC/EBP/S** In evaluating Stan Checketts' laboratory values, what if any abnormalities did you find?

Stan's abnormal values were his sodium, hemoglobin and hematocrit, urea nitrogen, creatinine, and white blood cell count.

**PCC/EBP/S** Stan Checketts had a nasogastric (NG) tube inserted for gastric decompression. What are the preferred methods for confirming placement of the NG tube?

An x-ray is the preferred method of confirming NG tube placement.

**T&C/EBP/S/PCC** What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient? Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format.

A 52 year old male patient came in for severe abdominal pain and nausea for the past few days. His abdomen is distended and tender and he has yet to urinate today. Patient has poor skin turgor and dry mucous membranes. I recommend we get fluids going to rehydrate the patient.

## Concluding Questions

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

Honestly, I did very good on this scenario so I would not change much. I could have given the patient pain medication a little sooner to help make him more comfortable. I could have also called the doctor sooner about the patient's symptoms.

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\* *The Scenario Analysis Questions are correlated to the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) competencies: Patient-Centered Care (PCC), Teamwork and Collaboration (T&C), Evidence-Based Practice (EBP), Quality Improvement (QI), Safety (S), and Informatics (I). Find more information at: <http://qsen.org/>*