

Pediatric Case 4: Brittany Long

Documentation Assignments

1. Document the patient history you obtained for Brittany Long, including previous pain crises, hospitalizations, precipitating events, medical treatment, and home management.
 - Brittany is 5 y/o with a history of sickle cell anemia disease. She was diagnosed with this disease at 3 y/o.
 - Her mother informed me that she has been taking her prescribed dose of folic acid supplements to manage her disease at home. She has also been administering Acetaminophen and Ibuprofen to manage Brittany's pain crisis at home.
 - Brittany stated that her pain started to hurt in her right leg when she was watching TV.
 - Her mother brought her into the ED because the pain has been occurring for two consecutive days.
 - Brittany has been admitted to the hospital twice, once was at the age of 4 for a vaso-occlusive crisis episode and the second was at the age of 3 for a fever.
2. Document your initial focused assessment of Brittany Long.
 - Due to Brittany being in pain, I quickly decided to get a baseline of her vitals (specifically her respiration rate) and assessed her pain using the FACES pain scale which was appropriate for her age. After she rated her pain I asked her where her pain was located, what makes it worse, and what makes it better. After she answered my questions I decided to assess her legs and they appeared pale.
3. Identify and document key nursing diagnoses for Brittany Long.
 - Acute pain in the right leg, impaired gas exchange, and increased risk for deficient fluid volume.
4. Referring to your feedback log, document the nursing care you provided and Brittany Long's response.
 - I first started off by assessing Brittany's pain, then proceeded to give her a stuffed animal to comfort her. I assessed her IV site which appeared to have no redness or any indications of infection. I then looked at the provider's orders and double checked to see if the dose fell in the recommended dose range for her weight. Once I confirmed the dose I proceeded to pre-flush her IV line to see if it was accessible, then administered the morphine sulfate, and post flushed to assure there wasn't any medications left in the line. After administering the morphine I re-assessed her respiratory system and blood pressure. Her respiration rate began to drop below 18 and therefore called the provider. After speaking with the provider and receiving an order for normal saline bolus for 30-60 minutes. I administered the IV fluids and proceeded to draw her blood samples. I also decided to offer Brittany her favorite juice to encourage fluid intake orally. After a few more minutes I re-assessed her pain and she rated her pain a 0 on the FACES scale.

5. Document the patient teaching that you would provide for Brittany Long and her family before discharge, including disease process, nutrition, signs and symptoms of crises, prevention of infection and dehydration, and pain management.
 - Sickle cell anemia disease is a blood disorder that affects the RBC. The affected RBC has a crescent moon shape and due to this shape the RBC have difficulty passing through the small blood vessels which then causes them to build up causing intense pain.
 - Before discharging Brittany home with her mother I decided it was important to teach her and her mother that it is important to have a good diet that is enriched with calcium and maintain good fluid intake. I would educate her mother and Brittany about the s/s of vaso-occlusive crisis which would consist of severe abdominal pain, thoracic pain, muscle pain, or bone pain, jaundice, dark yellow urine, and a low grade fever. For pain management I would educate her mother to administer acetaminophen or ibuprofen. I would also explain that it is important for her mother to stay on top of immunizations and to continue following the recommended vaccination schedule.