

Guided Reflection Questions for Surgical Case 2: Stan Checketts

Opening Questions

How did the scenario make you feel?

The scenario felt real to me. I did it three times to see what worked better, and each time I did, I learned a lot.

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?

Signs and symptoms are Fatigue, weakness, poor skin turgor, dry skin, dry mucous membranes, less urination than usual, and dark-colored urine.

EBP/QI Discuss signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock.

Signs and symptoms of hypovolemic shock are cool, clammy skin, weakness, confusion, tachycardia, shallow breathing, and low blood pressure.

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

- Abdominal assessment: may show abdominal distention, hyperactive bowel sounds (early) or hypoactive bowel sounds (late), swelling, pain, masses, bulges, or hernias.
- Abdominal x-ray and CT: may show the absence of air in the colon/rectum and dilated loops of small.

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

- Patient history of current/ past illness
- How bad is the pain on a scale of 1-10?
- Type of pain, which part of the abdomen?
- When did the pain start, and what was the patient doing when it happened?
- What makes it worse?
- Is pain local or systemic?

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

Abnormal values are white blood cells, hemoglobin, hematocrit, creatine, urea nitrogen, and sodium.

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?

Preferred methods would be x-ray.

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.

52-year-old male, admitted to ER for severe abd pain with n/v for the past few days. Distended abdomen, s/s of dehydration, decreased urination, and feeling fatigued. X-ray/CT scan for further assessment.

Concluding Questions

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

I wouldn't do anything different, but I will make sure to read the orders carefully. Overall, I'm satisfied with the result.

* *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/>*