

## Pediatric Case 10: Charlie Snow (Complex)

### Guided Reflection Questions

#### Opening Questions

How did the simulated experience of Charlie Snow's case make you feel?

As I get flustered easily in emergency situations, I appreciated how the simulation experience was set up as it prepared me with all the information beforehand in a timely manner, so that I could create a plan prior to "going into the patient's room". I felt nervous I would get kicked out of the simulation as it only allotted 30 minutes to complete your nursing interventions, but after the third try I was able to complete all the tasks in an orderly manner.

Discuss the actions you felt went well in this scenario.

What I felt went well in the scenario is that the first time I completed the scenario there was not clear instructions on what to do so I had to figure out exactly what I would do first as a real nurse. I felt went well with that is that I got a lot of the interventions correct but missed a few steps and I liked that the simulation explained what I missed and why a specific intervention may need to be done.

#### Scenario Analysis Questions<sup>\*</sup>

**EBP** List in order of priority your initial nursing actions identified for Charlie Snow based on physical findings and family interaction.

- I applied a blood pressure cuff to Charlie to continuously monitor his blood pressure as it can deplete due to anaphylaxis.
- I assessed Charlie's breathing and respiratory rate as he stated he had difficulty breathing and anaphylaxis can cause the throat to swell up and close.
- I switched Charlie's nasal cannula to a nonrebreather mask and changed the flow from 2L/min to 10L/min as that is the required minimum flow for a nonrebreather mask. I changed this mask due to the providers order of changing the mask if pulse ox is not above 94%.
- Finally, I set Charlie up to a semi-fowlers position as it helps open the lungs and will help Charlie breathe better rather than laying down.
- I then called the provider using SBAR to get further orders to reverse the anaphylactic shock.

---

<sup>\*</sup> 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/>

**EBP** What complications might Charlie Snow face if symptoms are not recognized and treated in a timely manner?

- Cardiogenic shock due to a rapid depletion of blood pressure, including arrhythmias
- Brain damage due to lack of oxygen from throat swelling up
- Death

**EBP** Why was a glucocorticosteroid administered in this case? Would it have been appropriate to administer albuterol in this case? Why or why not?

- Glucocorticosteroid was administered to attempt to manage anaphylaxis by reducing the severity of the acute reaction. I do not believe it would be appropriate to administer albuterol as that is more for asthmatic patients in controlling their breathing rather than anaphylaxis where it occurs acutely and severe.

**PCC** What communication techniques could be initiated to decrease the anxiety of Charlie Snow's aunt?

- Communication techniques could be as simple as explaining everything to Charlie's aunt rather than keeping her in the dark wondering what is happening and why we are giving specific medications to Charlie and what occurred to Charlie. However, this needs to be done in a timely manner because if you rush it, she may not understand all the information. You can also initiate information feedback to ensure she understood all the information.

**S/QI** Reflect on ways to improve safety and quality of care based on your experience with Charlie Snow's case.

- Raising the HOB as I went into my patient's room, he was laying supine even though he had difficulty breathing.
- Ensure to ask patient symptoms they may be experiencing to ensure proper communication.
- Ensure proper education is completed to any family that may learn they have new allergies as there is more than one food they need to stay away from.
- Other education to improve safety would include proper education on administering an EpiPen due to anaphylactic signs and symptoms and to call 911 immediately.

**S/I** Because Charlie Snow is accompanied by his aunt and not by a parent, what legal matter must be considered before performing treatment?

- The legal matter that must be considered is if the aunt has the right to sign consent forms for Charlie and make the proper medical decisions in the event Charlie does not improve. This can be done by contacting the parents or having the proper documents.

**T&C** What role do you feel Charlie Snow's guardians and parents have as members of his health care team? (Explain your answer.)

- I feel Charlie's guardians and parents' role in his health care team is safety. This is because they need to ensure anything Charlie is going to eat or anything that they prepare for him to eat is accommodated to his allergies. I would also include them as educators as they need to ensure that Charlie understand exactly what he can and cannot eat. They would also need to ensure that Charlie knows what to do in the event he accidentally experiences another anaphylaxis reaction.

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

- "I have Charlie Snow a 6-year-old male who presented to the emergency department due to an anaphylaxis reaction from a peanut allergy. He is having trouble breathing and is on a nonrebreather mask at 10L/min. I just administered 0.21mg of epinephrine 1:1000 IM, 25mg of diphenhydramine IVP, 10mg of methylprednisolone IVP, and bolus 420mL of normal saline IV over 30 minutes per providers orders. His current vital signs are HR 166, BP 145/112, RR 14 chest moving equally, O2 99%, and temp 99 degrees F. I recommend continuing to monitor patient to ensure breathing improves and slowly wean off oxygen.

### Concluding Questions

Reflecting on Charlie Snow's case, were there any actions you would do differently? If so, what were these actions, and why would you do them differently?

- Since it is a simulation, and you cannot properly control the situation as a real-life scenario I believe the one action I would do differently is better communication. I feel that communicating to the family and patient eases anxiety and allows for better understanding to the patient's situation.

Describe how you would apply the knowledge and skills that you obtained in Charlie Snow's case to an actual patient care situation.

- I would apply the knowledge of asking the pediatric patient about their symptoms which I don't think I would do in real life because I feel they can't tell me, which is not always the case, so I would begin to ask about symptoms. I will also apply the skill of taking my time in understanding the situation and properly applying the correct nursing interventions rather than feeling rushed and flustered.