

Opening Questions

How did the scenario make you feel?

This scenario made me feel good since I could apply the skills I've learned in the past 7 modules in my care. I knew when I saw Jennifer Hofmann that I needed to stabilize her oxygen before commencing any other care.

Scenario Analysis Questions*

PCC What assessment findings would indicate that the patient's condition is worsening?

- I believe that the main thing that I would notice that her condition is worsening is her not being able to communicate any longer with me because she was more focused on her respirations. In the worst-case scenario, her becoming unconscious would be a worrying sign of her condition.

PCC When a patient develops a rapid onset of shortness of breath, what are the nurse's immediate priorities?

- Initially, I would be worried about her airway and if she is able to breathe. I would check to see if there is an obstruction, then assess her respiratory system, and check her oxygen saturation to see if she is getting oxygen to her extremities.

PCC/I Review Jennifer Hoffman's laboratory results. Identify which results are abnormal and discuss how this relates to her clinical presentation and the disease process.

- In the scenario there weren't any labs available for me to review, however, I knew that she was in respiratory distress and I would monitor her vital signs and signs and symptoms. I would then critically think through what could be happening to her body when she is in respiratory distress.

Concluding Questions

What communication techniques are important for an extremely anxious patient who is having difficulty breathing?

- Assure Jennifer Hoffman that I am doing everything to resolve her situation and that we're going to get her back to a stable baseline. I would explain this in a calm voice that doesn't show that I am anxious or worried about her current status. I will also explain everything that I am doing and why everything is happening so she doesn't feel like she doesn't have control. This should help to relieve her anxiety and have her feel somewhat safe in her current situation. I wouldn't give her false hope that everything will be okay but I will let her know that I am doing everything to help relieve her distress.

What patient teaching priorities would be important for the patient who has experienced an acute exacerbation of asthma?

- Assure that they have the prescribed medication on hand and try and figure out what could have triggered the exacerbation (this will help to reduce further exacerbations). Express the need to quit smoking and that there are programs that can help them quit.

Refer the patient to a support group that can aid in the process of quitting. Teach the patient what nicotine does to the brain, and bargain with them on how they can quit or slow down the frequency of their smoking.

What discharge instructions regarding home medications would you provide the patient related to medications to use to alleviate symptoms of an acute asthma attack?

- Assure to shake the inhaler prior to inhaling. Teach the patient to breathe out prior to administering the medication and to take a deep breath while administering the medication. Teach the patient to rinse their mouth after each use to avoid oral candidiasis.

What resources would you recommend for the patient experiencing asthma?

- Support group and possibly a pulmonologist.

What is the importance of the asthma action plan in managing the care of a patient with asthma?

- To avoid them coming into a hospital and reducing future exacerbations!

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

- I would educate the patient after each intervention I did to have the patient feel more relaxed during a time of stress and anxiety. I would ask what her signs and symptoms are when she has hay fever and determine if she is referring to an allergy.