Delegation Case Study

Adapted from Lewis med surg case study

It is the beginning of the evening shift on a step-down unit. Your team for the evening includes you (the RN), another RN, one LVN, and one UAP. Here are the patients on the unit:

Room 401: 50-year-old female with ovarian cancer. Had an argument with her husband and is asking that all visitors be restricted.

Room 402: 88-year-old female with dehydration. Is now confused, and a urine sample is needed to rule out a urinary tract infection (UTI).

Room 403: 44-year-old male admitted with a nonhealing abdominal wound after gastric bypass. The wound has a negative pressure wound therapy system that needs to be changed this shift.

Room 404: 78-year-old male with bacterial endocarditis who will be returning to the nursing home to continue his IV antibiotics. Needs transfer form completed, assistance with dinner, and a bath.

Room 405: 35-year-old male going for an IV contrast CT. Received a call from radiology that transportation is on its way to pick up the patient; the patient does not have any IV access.

Room 406: 18-year-old male admitted for 23-hour observation for a mild concussion after falling at an ice rink. The patient is ready for discharge teaching.

Room 407: 22-year-old female with SIADH on fluid restriction. Current fluid restriction is 200 mL for the evening shift and 100 mL for the night shift. The family has brought in multiple food items and her favorite sodas.

Room 408: 25-year-old female with pelvic inflammatory disease. Needs to receive IV antibiotics, and a weight is required to prepare the proper dose.

1. Describe what a UAP and LVN can do.

2. What information do you need to find out before assigning care of the patient in Room 403?

3. Which tasks must be completed by you and the other RN? List in order of priority with rationale.

4. Which tasks may be delegated to the LVN/LPN? List in order of priority and provide your rationale.

5. Which tasks may be delegated to the UAP? List in order of priority and provide your rationale.

6. What specific feedback does the RN need from the LVN and UAP regarding their assigned tasks?