

**Firelands Regional Medical Center School of Nursing
Nursing Access
Online Discussion #1
Communication Case Study**

**Original Post Due by 1200 on Thursday 09/02/2021
Response Due by 1200 on Friday 09/03/2021**

All online discussion groups will be found under the “Discussions” tab of the course in Edvance360. Your original post for each discussion group is to be completed by Thursday at 1200 and must consist of at least 250 words. All students are expected to respond substantively to at least one other student posting by Friday at 1200. A substantive response consists of at least a 100 word response and includes more than simply agreeing with or restating another peers’ comments. Please refer to the Online Discussion Grading Rubric for details on requirements for online discussions.

Instructions: Read the patient profile and case study below. After reading the information, answer the accompanying questions by 1200 on Thursday 09/02/2021. Respond to one of your peers in a substantive manner by 1200 on Friday 09/03/2021. You are allotted 1-hour **total** of theory (online) time for your original post and your substantive response. You may use journal articles, Skyscape, or your textbooks as resources to assist you in answering the questions.

Patient Profile

Mrs. Lopez is a 79-year-old female who only speaks Spanish. She weighs 107 pounds and looks quite frail. She had a below-the-knee amputation of her left leg thirteen days ago. Mrs. Lopez has been admitted to the hospital from a rehabilitation center with an acute change in mental status and diminished lung sounds in the left base. She is diagnosed with left lower lobe pneumonia and antibiotic therapy is prescribed. The nurse assigned to care for Mrs. Lopez does not speak Spanish.

Case Study

Mrs. Lopez requires complete assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs). A medical interpreter is not assigned to the nursing unit. If needed, the nurse can ask a Spanish-speaking nursing staff member to help interpret what Mrs. Lopez is trying to express. However, the nurse still must develop a way of communicating with Mrs. Lopez so the nurse can assess her level of comfort, provide care, and identify any needs.

Case Study Questions

1. Describe a therapeutic nurse–patient relationship.
2. Discuss the challenges of developing a nurse–patient relationship when a language barrier exists between the patient and the nurse.
3. Family members are often willing to interpret for the patient and are more readily available. Discuss the use of medical interpreters and why, legally and ethically, family members (or friends of the patient) are not the preferred interpreter(s).
4. What is a communication blocker? Provide at least three examples. What are some ways the nurse can facilitate therapeutic communication?