

vSim - Medical Scenario 5: Skyler Hansen Guided Reflection Questions

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1. How did the scenario make you feel?

Overall, I really enjoyed the scenario because I learned what specifically to do when dealing with a patient with hypoglycemia. It took me a couple tries to get above an 80 percent, but it was incredibly rewarding when I finally did.

2. What management options would have been appropriate if Skyler Hansen had been alert and could swallow?

If Skyler Hansen had a functioning swallow reflex, then I would definitely incorporate food and beverage options to deal with his hypoglycemic state. These include fast acting carbs, and possibly a glucose tablet.

3. If Skyler Hansen's acute hypoglycemic episode had not have been treated immediately, what could have happened?

If hypoglycemia isn't treated, it can result in brain cell death which manifests itself in many ways. Lack of coordination and loss of motor function is common as well as loss of communication and even seizures due to the effect on the brain.

4. If too much glucose were administered to Skyler Hansen while the health care team was trying to correct his blood glucose level, what could occur?

If too much glucose was administered to the patient, it may cause him to progress into a hyperglycemic state. Some notable symptoms of this are increased thirst and dry mucous membranes, along with tiredness and increased urination.

5. What key elements would you include in the handoff report for this patient?

Consider the SBAR (situation, background, assessment, recommendation) format.

In the handoff report we would state the situation where Skyler is a newly diagnosed diabetic who suddenly fell down when playing basketball with his friends. For background, we would note that he has slurred speech and is acting irrationally with only a response to stimuli. I note that the patient received dextrose to increase his glucose levels. I would recommend to the nurse to watch for further signs of hypoglycemia in order to promptly respond to it in the event of it.

6. Describe age-appropriate patient teaching for Skyler Hansen and resources that may be helpful to him.

Because Skyler Hansen is an 18 year old and newly diagnosed with diabetes type 1, it is important to consider that he is still coping and likely distressed from this diagnosis. I would teach him the pathology of the disease and the role of insulin and glucose in the body. It is also important to teach him about low blood sugar and how to avoid it,

we should also educate the patient on what to do in the event of a hypoglycemic emergency.

7. Discuss confidentiality and legal empowerment of 18-year-old patients such as in Skyler Hansen's case.

With a patient who is 18 years old, we as nurses must remember that they are legally an adult and should be treated as one in the hospital. All information is confidential to him and must be approved by him for release to other people, for example, we would keep information about his case from his parents unless he specifically approves it.

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

One of the major things I missed in this vSim was patient education, it is super important to educate patients about their condition and the actions of the nurses in general. But it is even more important for Skyler because he is a young man with a completely new diagnosis of diabetes. A second thing I would do differently is ask the patients about his allergies due to the medications he was receiving, this is important to prevent allergic reactions.