Professional Issues

Mary Raley, BSN, RN, CEN, TCRN, TNS
Under regulations of the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), individuals are entitled to all the following except:

A. Having errors in the medical record changed within one year
B. Objecting to or restricting the use of their medical records
C. Accessing their personal medical records
D. Authorizing the use of their medical records

Answer A
The EMTALA requires that all patients presenting to the emergency department must:

A. Meet the hospital’s admission criteria
B. Show proof of ability to pay before the services are rendered
C. Present to an emergency department capable of handling their emergency
D. Have a medical screening exam

Answer: D
A 4-year-old child is brought to the ED after falling out of a tree is awake, but fearful. Past medical records indicate the child has experienced multiple instances of injury. An appropriate first action for the nurse would be to:

A. Tell the parents that abuse is suspected
B. Immediately report the suspicion of physical abuse to the proper authorities
C. Discuss with the ED physician the possibility of child neglect
D. Recognize that all children are accident prone

Answer: C
Monitoring the physical and psychological well-being of the patient who is restrained or secluded includes an assessment of:

A. Neurological status and psychosocial status
B. Respiratory and circulatory status
C. Muscle tone and respiratory status
D. Skin turgor and circulatory status

**Answer: B**
Research that examines whether the use of a 5-level triage acuity categorization system increases the triage nurse's confidence when assigning triage acuities is described as which type of research?

A. Quasi-experimental
B. Descriptive
C. Experimental
D. Qualitative

Answer: B
Collecting trace evidence in the ED from a crime victim includes:

A. Separating scrapings or clippings or taking swabs of skin cells or debris by extremity
B. Flooding the area with water if unable to lift dry pieces of evidence
C. Vigorously scraping debris evidence onto a clean slide
D. Clipping all of the patient’s fingernails and placing the clippings on a piece of clean paper

Answer: A
The claim of battery against an emergency nurse might result from which of the following actions?

A. Starting IV access on a patient who declines treatment
B. Forgetting to remove an IV catheter before discharging the patient
C. Threatening the patient
D. Failing to obtain informed consent prior to sending the patient to surgery

Answer: A
The literature establishes that all of the following are true about family presence during resuscitation except:

A. There is increased risk of medicolegal litigation
B. It facilitates the family’s grieving process
C. It reduces questioning whether emergency department staff adequately attempted to resuscitate the patient
D. Families may request termination of the resuscitation efforts

Answer: A
A patient who sustained a gunshot wound to the chest arrives in the ED. During the assessment and documentation process, the nurse would know to:

A. Use metal forceps to remove any existing bullets
B. Place all of the patient’s clothing together in an evidence bag
C. Identify the penetrating sounds as “entrance” and “exit” wounds
D. Obtain photographs of the wound and surrounding gunpowder if possible

Answer: D
Short informal critical incident stress debriefing sessions (CISD) should commence within what time frame following an event?

A. Within 30-minutes
B. Immediately following the event
C. Within 1-4 hours
D. The next day

Answer: C
An emergency nurse may delegate responsibilities to others based on all of the following except:

A. Education
B. Tenure in the department
C. Experience
D. Competency

Answer: B
Implied consent may be assumed in which of the following scenarios?

A. An elderly woman who is hard of hearing and presents to the ED for a rash
B. An infant in respiratory distress, accompanied by a baby-sitter
C. An adult who had one beer two hours prior to arrival in the emergency department
D. A prisoner from the local jail brought to the ED for evaluation of chest pain

Answer: B
When a patient signs consent for treatment during the registration process, this is considered:

A. Implied consent  
B. Expressed consent  
C. Involuntary consent  
D. Informed consent

**Answer:** B
Following an inhalation treatment for an acute broncho-constrictive exacerbation, appropriate documentation indicating improvement would be:

A. “Patient is speaking in full sentences”
B. “Patient seems to be more comfortable”
C. “Patient’s respiratory rate remains 30 breaths/minute”
D. “Patient continues to demonstrate tracheal tugging”

Answer: A
According to EMTALA, when a patient is transferred to another facility, the sending facility must provide:

A. Copies of complete listing of charges from the sending facility
B. Insurance information and worker’s compensation information if the patient was injured on the job
C. A certificate signed by the physician confirming that benefits of the transfer outweigh the risk of transfer
D. A complete listing of the patient's valuables and personal belongings.

Answer: C
In a negligence suit, the plaintiff must prove four key elements in a court of law: Duty to the patient, breach of duty by the health care professional, injury resulting from the breach, and:

A. Inadequate education and training of the health care professional
B. Breach of duty is the proximate cause of injury
C. Documentation inadequate to fully describe the situation that resulted in injury
D. Incident report incomplete when retrieved by the plaintiff’s attorney

Answer: B
Which of the following situations is considered an exception to required parental consent for treatment of a 14-year-old patient?

A. Unemancipated minors
B. Elevated alcohol level
C. Gonorrhea
D. Commission of a crime

Answer: C