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Clinical Reasoning Questions To Develop Nurse Thinking



THINK like a Nurse
PREPARE STUDENTS FOR PRACTICE

Formulate and reflect before and after report, but BEFORE seeing patient the first time.

- 1 What is the primary problem and what is its underlying cause or pathophysiology?
- 2 What clinical data from the chart is **RELEVANT** and needs to be trended because it is clinically significant?
- 3 List all relevant nursing priorities. What nursing priority captures the “essence” of your patient’s status and will guide your plan of care?
- 4 What nursing interventions will you initiate based on this priority and what are the desired outcomes?
- 5 What body system(s), key assessments and psychosocial needs will you focus on based on your patient’s primary problem or nursing care priority?
- 6 What is the worst possible/most likely complication(s) to anticipate based on the primary problem?
- 7 What nursing assessments will identify this complication **EARLY** if it develops?
- 8 What nursing interventions will you initiate if this complication develops?

WHILE providing care, review and note after initial patient assessment.

- 9 What clinical assessment data did you just collect that is **RELEVANT** and needs to be **TRENDED** because it is clinically significant to detect a change in status?
- 10 Does your nursing priority or plan of care need to be modified in any way after assessing your patient?
- 11 After reviewing the primary care provider’s note, what is the rationale for any new orders or changes made?
- 12 What educational priorities have you identified and how will you address them?

Caring and the “Art” of Nursing.

- 13 What is the patient likely experiencing/feeling right now in this situation?
- 14 What can I do to engage myself with this patient’s experience, and show that he/she matters to me as a person?

