**Study Questions**

**Chapter 2: The Patient Interview**

1. In the patient interview, the nurse should:
   1. limit questions to medical considerations.
   2. assert authority by remaining in total control of the interview.
   3. establish a mutually respectful dialogue with the patient.
   4. assure the patient that accepted medical practice takes priority over her or his cultural or religious background.

Answer: c

Rationale: The interview process is a means of gaining knowledge about the patient and is of a holistic, nonjudgmental nature.

1. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 2003 provides for all of the following except:
   1. confidentiality of patient information.
   2. the patient’s right to access her or his own medical records.
   3. easier sharing of patients’ medical records between health care providers.
   4. punishment for violations of the law.

Answer: c

Rationale: HIPAA greatly restricts how information may be shared.

1. The optimal distance between the nurse and the patient during interviews is approximately:
   1. 1.5 feet.
   2. 1.5 to 4 feet.
   3. 4 to 12 feet.
   4. 12 feet or more.

Answer: c

Rationale: A distance of 4 to 12 feet allows for good eye contact and ease in hearing and in seeing nonverbal cues.

1. During the patient interview, a nurse should:
   1. repeatedly probe for more information.
   2. try to clarify incongruous messages.
   3. always try to reassure the patient to help relieve anxiety.
   4. tell the patient what to do.

Answer: b

Rationale: Probing for information can cause the patient to withdraw. Constant, sometimes false, reassurance is unrealistic and may later decrease the nurse’s credibility. Telling the patient what to do discourages independent judgment by the patient.

1. Interviewing a patient with hearing impairment may require the nurse to do all of the following except:
   1. face the patient to allow for lip reading and nonverbal clues.
   2. use an intermediary.
   3. make sure that the patient’s hearing aid is working properly.
   4. avoid written communication.

Answer: d

Rationale: In order to communicate, one must sometimes use alternative means.

1. Interviewing a patient with visual impairment may require the nurse to do all of the following except:
   1. speak more loudly than normal.
   2. ask the patient’s permission before touching.
   3. advise the patient when entering or leaving the room.
   4. orient the patient to the immediate environment.

Answer: a

Rationale: The nurse should use verbal means to help the patient be aware if he cannot see.

1. When interviewing a patient with a history of violent behavior, the nurse should do all of the following except:
   1. close the door to the interview room to put the patient at ease.
   2. sit near an easily accessible exit.
   3. watch for signs of increasing tension in the patient.
   4. alert security personnel of the situation.

Answer: a

Rationale: Nurses must exercise caution when dealing with potentially dangerous patients.

1. When interviewing an elderly patient, the nurse should (choose two):
   1. be aware that the patient may have multiple problems which are obstacles to understanding and responding.
   2. always direct questions to persons accompanying the patient, rather than to the patient.
   3. assume that physical disabilities indicate cognitive disability.
   4. allow additional time for the interview.

Answer: a, d

Rationale: Elderly patients should be presumed to be mentally competent unless otherwise evidenced. Allowances must be made for problems, and the nurse must understand that each case is unique.