**Study Questions**

**Chapter 3: The Complete Health History Including Documentation**

1. When assessing the patient's chief complaint, the nurse should inquire about the following:
   1. the patient's insurance coverage.
   2. the patient's mode of transportation to the health care facility.
   3. the chronological account of the chief complaint and the events surrounding it.
   4. the patient's past surgical history.

Answer: c

Rationale: Payment for health care services should have nothing to do with the patient seeking care, but it can be a factor in assessing timing or severity of the complaint. Transportation and surgical history may also help provide a clearer picture of the problem, but for the purposes of just assessing chief complaint, (c) is correct.

1. Aspects of timing as a characteristic of a patient's chief complaint are:
   1. pounding, burning, and stabbing.
   2. diffuse or localized.
   3. concurrent activity and the patient's mental state.
   4. onset, duration, and frequency.

Answer: d

Rationale: Answers (a), (b), and (c) refer to other characteristics.

1. When inquiring about past health history, the patient may not answer completely due to:
   1. forgetting something.
   2. being too ill to think clearly.
   3. not understanding the significance of some past illness, injury, or condition.
   4. overuse of medical jargon.
   5. all of the above

Answer: e

Rationale: Effective communication requires that the nurse makes sure that questions are understood by the patient and that the patient is able to respond in some manner. Questions may need to be specific and closed at times.

1. When inquiring about medications during a health history, the nurse should ask about all of the following except:
   1. both prescription and over-the-counter medications.
   2. herbal and home remedies, vitamins, and other dietary supplements.
   3. only oral medications.
   4. storage and disposal of medications.

Answer: c

Rationale: Patients may not perceive that remedies other than prescription pills are medications. Improper storage may render some medications ineffective.

1. When inquiring about communicable diseases during a health history, the nurse should (choose two):
   1. ask only about childhood diseases such as measles, mumps, and rubella.
   2. ask only about common diseases such as colds.
   3. ask about tattoos, body piercings, and parenteral drug use.
   4. ask about symptoms, treatment, and complications of any diseases previously diagnosed.

Answer: c, d

Rationale: The range of communicable diseases is broad, and most people are immunized against childhood diseases. Tattoos, body piercings, and parenteral drug use present the possibility of transmission of infection and disease.

1. When inquiring about allergies during a health history, the nurse should do all of the following except:
   1. ask about allergens other than medications, including tape, latex, and other environmental factors.
   2. consider any untoward reaction to be an allergy.
   3. ask about severity of reactions.
   4. consider cross-reactions, such as penicillin and cephalosporins.

Answer: b

Rationale: Many patients consider any adverse effect, such as nausea with codeine, to be an "allergy."

1. The following is true of patients who have received blood transfusions:
   1. There is no risk of disease transmission when just receiving blood components.
   2. There was no risk for contracting HIV prior to 1981.
   3. Patients who have received multiple transfusions have a higher risk for contracting an infectious disease.
   4. Hepatitis cannot be transmitted in blood transfusions.

Answer: c

Rationale: Despite rigorous screening and testing, every transfusion poses some risk.

1. The following relatives' health histories should be considered when reviewing a patient's health history:
   1. children.
   2. adoptive parents.
   3. spouses.
   4. all of the above

Answer: d

Rationale: Environmental factors, as well as genetics, can play a role in one's health.

1. When inquiring about alcohol and drug use during a health history, the nurse should (choose two):
   1. share personal information about the subject in order to get the patient to do the same.
   2. be matter-of-fact and nonjudgmental.
   3. remind the patient that the information is confidential.
   4. ask the patient who supplies him with illicit substances.

Answer: b, c

Rationale: Nurses must remain in the role of caregiver rather than posing as a peer or police officer.

1. When inquiring about sexual practices during a health history, the nurse should (choose two):
   1. be matter-of-fact and nonjudgmental.
   2. always have the parents or guardians present when talking to a minor.
   3. ask about birth control and use of condoms.
   4. not be concerned about this topic for patients under 15 or over 75.

Answer: a, c

Rationale: Young people may be reluctant to discuss sex in front of parents. Sexual activity occurs in the very young and elderly.

1. When inquiring about possible domestic partner violence during a health history, the nurse should:
   1. not be concerned if the patient appears to be well-to-do.
   2. only ask if the patient mentions it.
   3. only ask if the patient has some visible signs of abuse.
   4. ask when the domestic partner is not present.

Answer: d

Rationale: Abuse is not limited by one's socioeconomic class, and it may be verbal or emotional rather than physical. Patients may be reluctant to bring it up, especially if the abuser is present.

1. When inquiring about stress during a health history, the nurse should (choose two):
   1. ask about possible causes of stress.
   2. ask how the patient reacts to it.
   3. mention that stress always causes physical illness.
   4. advise the patient that he or she will need to take tranquilizers to relieve it.

Answer: a, b

Rationale: Stress may make one more prone to illness or injury but does not always cause it. Tranquilizers may interfere with one's ability to deal with a stressor.

1. When inquiring about health maintenance activities during a health history, the nurse should ask about:
   1. military service.
   2. domestic partner violence.
   3. alcohol use.
   4. sleep patterns.

Answer: d

Rationale: Answers (a), (b), and (c) are aspects of the social history.

1. Which of the following behaviors represent health promotion (choose two)?
   1. regular aerobic exercise.
   2. managing stress with a glass of wine.
   3. always wearing one's seat belt if riding more than five miles.
   4. brushing one's teeth after eating.

Answer: a, d

Rationale: Alcohol usually does not help a person deal with stressors. Seat belts should always be worn when riding in an automobile.

1. When conducting a review of systems, the nurse (choose two):
   1. must always do this during the health history.
   2. may be able to combine it with the physical examination of the patient.
   3. asks the patient if he or she has experienced a variety of conditions.
   4. asks the patient only open-ended questions about each system.

Answer: b, c

Rationale: The experienced nurse can combine this review with the physical exam. Questions can be open-ended, but are most likely to be more closed and specific.

1. Which of the following is true about documentation in medical records?
   1. Errors can be erased with correction fluid.
   2. The nurse can sign a record written by someone else.
   3. It is common to use judgmental terms in medical records.
   4. It is a legal document.

Answer: d

Rationale: Documentation is the legal record of the patient encounter and must be done in a professional manner.