Chapter 1 Introduction to Child Health and Pediatric Nursing

1. The nurse providing family-centered care in a hospital setting reflects on the focus of the health care provided in today’s society. Which statement best describes the current definition of health?
   A) Health is described as ‘an absence of disease.’
   B) Health is measured by monitoring mortality and morbidity of a group.
   C) Health is a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being.
   D) Technological gains made in health care are shared equally among all children. Ans:C

   Feedback:
   In the past, health was defined simply as the absence of disease; health was measured by monitoring the mortality and morbidity of a group. Over the past century, however, the focus of health has shifted to disease prevention, health promotion, and wellness. The World Health Organization (2013) defines health as “a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.” The gains in child health have been huge, but, unfortunately, these gains are not shared equally among all children.

2. The student nurse is learning about the past history of child health and health care in the United States. Which statement accurately reflects the condition of health care in the past and current centuries?
   A) In past centuries in the United States, the health of the country was better than it is today due to the simpler style of living.
   B) In the current century, mortality rates are high, but life expectancy has increased due to technological advances.
   C) In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries urban public health improvements made cities healthier places for growing children.
   D) By the late twentieth century unintentional injuries rather than infectious diseases had become the leading cause of death for children older than 1 year old. Ans:D

   Feedback:
   In past centuries in the United States, the health of the country was poorer than it is today; mortality rates were high and life expectancy was short. Over the years the health of children received more and more attention, leading to a better understanding of sources of illness and improvements in sanitation, water, and nutrition. As a result, by the late
The twentieth century unintentional injuries rather than infectious diseases had become the leading cause of death for children older than 1 year old. Origin: Chapter 1, 3

The nurse is administering a number of therapeutic interventions for neonates, infants, and children on the pediatric unit. Which intervention contributes to an increase in chronic illness seen in early childhood?

A) Administering antibiotics to prevent lethal infections
B) Vaccinating children to prevent childhood diseases
C) Using mechanical ventilation for premature infants
D) Using corticosteroids as a treatment for asthma

Ans:C

Feedback:
Using mechanical ventilation and medications to foster lung development in premature infants increases their survival rate. Yet the infants who survive are often faced with myriad chronic illnesses. Administering antibiotics to prevent lethal infections, vaccinating children to prevent childhood diseases, and using corticosteroids as a treatment for asthma may cause side effects, but do not contribute to chronic illness in children.

The nurse is reviewing a copy of the U.S. Surgeon General’s Report, Healthy People. Which nursing action best reflects the nurse fostering this health care agenda?

A) The nurse signs up for classes to obtain an advanced degree in nursing
B) The nurse volunteers at a local health care clinic providing free vaccinations for low-income populations
C) The nurse performs an in-service on basic hospital equipment for student nurses
D) The nurse compiles nursing articles on evidence-based practices in nursing to present at a hospital training seminar

Ans:B

Feedback:
Healthy People is a comprehensive health promotion and disease prevention agenda that is working toward improving the quantity and quality of life for all Americans (U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010). Overarching goals are to eliminate preventable disease, disability, injury, and premature death; achieve health equity, eliminate disparities, and improve the health of all groups; create physical and social environments that promote good health; and promote healthy development and behaviors across every stage of life. Volunteering at a local health care clinic directly reflects the goal of improving the health of all groups of people. Signing up for classes, performing in-services on equipment, and compiling nursing articles on evidence-based practices in nursing are all worthwhile activities that foster health care delivery, but are not as directly linked to the agenda of promoting health in the community. Origin: Chapter 1, 5

The neonatal nurse researches the neonatal and mortality rates in the United States. Which statements accurately describe these measurements of child health? Select all that apply.

A) Neonatal mortality is the number of infant deaths occurring in the first 28 days of life per 1,000 live births.
B) The infant mortality rate refers to the number of deaths occurring in the first 6 months of life.
C) Neonatal mortality is documented as the number of deaths in relation to 1,000 live births.
D) The infant mortality rate is used as an index of the general health of a country.
E) In 2007, the infant mortality rate in the United States was 6.8 per 1,000 live births.
F) The infant mortality rate is consistent from state to state as well as between ethnic groups. Ans: A, C, D, E

Feedback:
Neonatal mortality is the number of infant deaths occurring in the first 28 days of life per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate refers to the number of deaths occurring in the first 12 months of life and is documented as the number of deaths in relation to 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate is used as an index of the general health of a country; generally, this statistic is one of the most significant measures of children’s health. In 2007, the infant mortality rate in the United States was 6.8 per 1,000 live births. The infant mortality rate varies greatly from state to state as well as between ethnic groups.

6. The nurse researcher investigates the morbidity rate in the United States. Which statement accurately reflects this concept?
A) Morbidity measures the prevalence of a specific illness in a population at a particular time.
B) Morbidity is presented in rates per 100,000 population.
C) Morbidity statistics are revised more frequently because of the ease in defining or obtaining the information.
D) In general, 76% of children in the United States enjoyed excellent health and 27% had very good health in a 2007 report.
Ans: A

Feedback:
Morbidity is the measure of prevalence of a specific illness in a population at a particular time. It is presented in rates per 1,000 population. Morbidity is often difficult to define and record because the definitions used vary widely. For example, morbidity may be defined as visits to the physician or diagnosis for hospital admission. Also, data may be difficult to obtain. Morbidity statistics are revised less frequently because of the difficulty in defining or obtaining the information. In general, 56% of children in the United States enjoyed excellent health and 27% had very good health as reported in a summary of health statistics for children in 2007.
Origin: Chapter 1, 7

7. When assessing a family for barriers to health care, the nurse documents checks for psychosocial barriers. What is an example of this type of health care deficit?
A) Academic difficulties
B) Respiratory illness
C) Poor sanitation
D) Inherited diseases
Ans: A

Feedback:
Environmental and psychosocial factors are now an identified area of concern in children. They include academic differences, complex psychiatric disorders, self-harm and harm to others, use of firearms, hostility at school, substance abuse, HIV/AIDS, and adverse effects of the media. Respiratory illness and inherited diseases are health problems, and poor sanitation is an environmental factor.
8. When integrating the principles of family-centered care, the nurse would include which concept?
A) Parents want nurses to make decisions about their child’s treatment.
B) Families are unable to make informed choices.
C) People have taken increased responsibility for their own health.
D) Families require little information to make appropriate decisions. Ans:C

   Feedback:
   Due to the influence of managed care, the focus on prevention, better education, and technological advances, people have taken increased responsibility for their own health. Parents now want information about their child’s illness, to participate in making decisions about treatment, and to accompany their children to all health care situations.

9. The nurse is caring for a 2-week-old girl with a metabolic disorder. Which activity would deviate from the characteristics of family-centered care?
A) Softening unpleasant information or prognoses
B) Evaluating and changing the nursing plan of care
C) Collaborating with the child and family as equals
D) Showing respect for the family’s beliefs and wishes
Ans:A

   Feedback:
   Family-centered care requires that the nurse provide open and honest information to the child and family. It is inappropriate to soften unpleasant information or prognoses. Evaluating and changing the nursing plan of care to fit the needs of the child and family, collaborating with them as equals, and showing respect for their beliefs and wishes are guidelines for family-centered care.

10. The nurse is caring for a 14-year-old girl with multiple health problems. Which of the following activities would best reflect evidence-based practice by the nurse?
A) Following blood pressure monitoring recommendations
B) Determining how often the vital signs are monitored
C) Using hospital protocol for ordering diagnostic tests
D) Deciding the prescribed medication dose
Ans:A

   Feedback:
   Using hospital protocol for ordering a diagnostic test, determining how often the vital signs are monitored, and deciding the medication dose ordered would be the physician’s responsibility. However, following blood pressure monitoring recommendations would be part of evidence-based practice reflected in the nursing care delivered.

The nurse is caring for a 10-year-old boy with a neuroblastoma. Which activities best describe the role of the nurse as a care coordinator, collaborator, and consultant? Select all that apply.
A) Collaborating with the family throughout the care path
B) Advancing the interests of children and their families by knowing their needs

   Feedback:
   Family-centered care requires the nurse to work closely with the family, collaborate as equals, and respect the family’s beliefs and wishes. It is essential to provide open and honest information. The nurse should follow evidence-based practice and use hospital protocols for ordering diagnostic tests.
C) Informing children and families of their rights and options
D) Coordinating care provided by the interdisciplinary team
E) Ensuring that the child’s and family’s needs are met through activities such as support groups
F) Providing appropriate client education based on the child’s developmental level

**Ans:** A, D, E

**Feedback:**
The pediatric nurse serves as a collaborator, care coordinator, and consultant. Collaborating with the interdisciplinary health care team, the pediatric nurse integrates the child’s and family’s needs into a coordinated plan of care. In the role of consultant, the pediatric nurse ensures that the child’s and family’s needs are met through such activities as support group facilitation or working with the school nurse to plan the child’s care. In the role as a child and family advocate, the nurse safeguards and advances the interests of children and their families by knowing their needs and resources, informing them of their rights and options, and assisting them to make informed decisions. In the role of educator, the nurse instructs and counsels children and their families about all aspects of health and illness. In this role the pediatric nurse also ensures that communication with the child and family is based on the child’s age and developmental level.

**Origin:** Chapter 1, 12

The pediatric nurse operates according to the standards of professional performance. According to the American Nurses Association (ANA) Scope and Standards of Pediatric Nursing Practice. Which statements accurately reflect these standards? Select all that apply.

A) The pediatric nurse uses research findings in practice and participates in the generation of new knowledge.
B) The pediatric nurse plans and delivers safe, effective nursing care regardless of the cost and its impact on practice.
C) The pediatric nurse acts as an advocate for the hospital staff, physicians, and other health care team members involved in care of the child.
D) The pediatric nurse’s decisions and actions in all areas of practice are determined in an ethical manner.
E) The pediatric nurse collaborates with the child, family, and physician in providing care for the child.
F) The health care administrators, not the pediatric nurses, are responsible for improving the quality and effectiveness of pediatric nursing practice.

**Ans:** A, D, E

**Feedback:**
According to the ANA Scope and Standards of Pediatric Nursing Practice, the pediatric nurse uses research findings in practice and participates in the generation of new knowledge; considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, cost in planning and delivering care, and the impact on practice; and is an advocate for the child and family. The pediatric nurse’s decisions and actions in all areas of practice are determined in an ethical manner. The pediatric nurse collaborates with the child, family, and physician in providing care for the child, and systematically improves the quality and effectiveness of pediatric nursing practice.

**Origin:** Chapter 1, 13
13. The nurse is providing home care for a 6-year-old girl with multiple medical challenges. Which activities are part of the educator role of the nurse? Select all that apply.
A) Arranging for a physical therapy session  
B) Teaching parents to administer albuterol  
C) Reminding a parent to give a full course of antibiotics  
D) Giving a DTaP vaccination at the proper interval  
E) Showing the parents how to perform proper hand hygiene  
F) Integrating research findings to establish evidence-based practice

Ans: B, C, E

Feedback:
Teaching parents to administer albuterol, reminding a parent to give the full course of antibiotics, and showing them how to perform proper hand hygiene involves the role of the nurse as an educator. Arranging for a physical therapy session, giving a DTaP vaccination at the proper interval, and integrating research findings to establish evidence-based practice are examples of care management.

14. The nurse is functioning in the primary role to care for a 12-year-old boy with metastatic cancer in the liver. Which activity is typical of advocacy?
A) Instructing parents about proper home care  
B) Educating the family about choices they have  
C) Telling parents about clinical guidelines  
D) Teaching the family about types of cancers  

Ans: B

Feedback:
Educating the family about choices they have regarding therapies for the cancer in the child’s liver is an example of advocacy, in which the nurse advances the interests of the child and family by informing them of options and assisting them to make informed decisions. Telling parents about proper home care, clinical guidelines, and the types of cancers are all done in the primary role of educator.

15. The nurse is providing care for a 9-year-old girl who is medically fragile. Which is an example of the nursing role of collaboration?
A) Informing the team members of the progress of treatment  
B) Discussing the child’s needs with a school nurse  
C) Advising the pulmonologist of respiratory symptoms  
D) Arranging for after-school attendance at a day care facility

Ans: A

Feedback:
Informing team members of the progress of treatment is an act of collaboration. Discussing the child’s needs with a school nurse is done in the role of a consultant. Advising the pulmonologist of respiratory symptoms and arranging after-school attendance at a day care facility are care coordinator activities.

Origin: Chapter 1, 16

16. The nurse is providing care to an ill child and his family. Which activity reflects the use of the assessment step of the nursing process when providing care for children?
A) Collecting data about the child and family
B) Analyzing data to make judgments about the child’s health state
C) Evaluating care provided by the interdisciplinary team
D) Developing a care plan that incorporates child goals

Ans: A

Feedback:
The nursing process is applicable to all health care settings and consists of five steps: assessment, nursing diagnosis, outcome identification and planning, implementation, and outcome evaluation. Collecting data about the child and family occurs in the assessment step of the nursing process. Analyzing data to make judgments about the child’s health state involves nursing diagnosis, evaluating care provided by the interdisciplinary team is performed in the outcome evaluation, and developing a care plan that incorporates child goals occurs in the planning stage.

Origin: Chapter 1, 17

17. The nurse is caring for a 14-year-old boy with a growth hormone deficiency. Which action best reflects using the nursing process to provide quality care to children and their families?
A) Reviewing the effectiveness of interventions
B) Questioning the facility standards for care
C) Earning continuing education credits
D) Ensuring reasonable costs for care provided

Ans: A

Feedback:
The nursing process is used to care for the child and family during health promotion, maintenance, restoration, and rehabilitation. It is a problem-solving method based on the scientific method that allows nursing care to be planned and implemented in a thorough, organized manner to ensure quality and consistency of care. The nursing process is applicable to all health care settings and consists of five steps: assessment, nursing diagnosis, outcome identification and planning, implementation, and outcome evaluation. Reviewing the effectiveness of interventions is related to outcome evaluation in the nursing process. Even though the three remaining answer options are valuable in ensuring quality of care in health care facilities, they do not involve the direct care of the child and family using the nursing process.

18. The nurse is caring for a newborn infant who has Down syndrome. Which nursing action reflects the nurse’s use of the ethical principle of nonmaleficence?
A) The nurse speaks truthfully to the parents regarding their child’s prognosis.
B) The nurse provides safe, competent nursing care to avoid harming the infant.
C) The nurse involves the parents in making health care decisions for their child.
D) The nurse fairly allocates resources for caring for newborns in a facility.

Ans: B

Feedback:
Ethics includes the basic principles of autonomy, beneficence, nonmaleficence, justice, veracity, and fidelity. Nonmaleficence means avoiding causing harm, intentionally or unintentionally. One example is providing safe, competent nursing care. Speaking truthfully to the parents is an example of veracity. Generally, parents have the autonomy to make health care decisions for their child. Justice refers to acting fairly, and also involves allocating resources fairly.
The nurse is caring for a premature infant and his mother who are scheduled for discharge even though the nurse feels the mother is not emotionally equipped to return home. When balancing the ethical components of this dilemma, the nurse identifies the problem and gathers more information. What would be the nurse’s next step in this process?

A) Choose a solution based on available data  
B) Implement a solution regardless of pros and cons  
C) Weigh the risks against the benefits  
D) Evaluate possible outcomes of the situation

Ans:C

Feedback:
The pediatric nurse must balance these ethical components when dealing with families from a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds who are making health care decisions for their children. The process is as follows: (1) identify the problem, (2) gather information about the problem, (3) weigh the risks against the benefits, (4) choose a solution, (5) implement the solution, and (6) evaluate the outcome of the situation.

A preschool child is scheduled to undergo a diagnostic test. Which action by the nurse would violate a child’s bill of health care rights?

A) Arranging for her mother to be with her  
B) Telling the child the test will not hurt  
C) Assuring the child that the test will be done quickly  
D) Introducing the child to the lab technicians

Ans:B

Feedback:
Telling the child the test will not hurt lacks veracity. It is not a lie, but it does not honor the child’s right to be educated honestly about his or her health care. Arranging for the mother to be with the child, assuring the child that the test will be done quickly, and introducing the child to the lab technicians are actions that honor the child’s bill of health care rights.

The pediatric nurse knows that the children she is treating are considered minors. Which statement accurately describes the regulations related to consent for medical treatment?

A) Children older than age 16 can provide their own consent for, or refusal of, medical procedures.  
B) A guardian ad litem may be appointed by the parents to serve to protect the child’s best interests.  
C) Parents ultimately are the decision makers regarding medical treatment for their children younger than the age of 18.  
D) When divorce occurs, the parent with whom the child is living on a daily basis will be granted custody of the child.

Ans:C

Feedback:
Parents ultimately are the decision makers for their children. Generally, only persons over the age of majority (18 years of age) can legally provide consent for health care. Minors (children younger than 18 years of age) generally require adult guardians to act on their behalf. Biological or adoptive parents are usually considered to be the child’s legal
guardian. When divorce occurs, one or both parents may be granted custody of the child. In certain cases (such as child abuse or neglect, or during foster care), a guardian *ad litem* may be appointed by the courts. This person generally serves to protect the child’s best interests. Origin: Chapter 1, 22
The nurse is caring for a 12-year-old child hospitalized for internal injuries following a motor vehicle accident. For which medical treatment would the nurse ensure that an informed consent is completed beyond the one signed at admission?
A) Diagnostic imaging
B) Cardiac monitoring
C) Blood testing
D) Spinal tap
Ans:D
Feedback:
Most care given in a health care setting is covered by the initial consent for treatment signed when the child becomes a patient at that office or clinic or by the consent to treatment signed upon admission to the hospital or other inpatient facility. Certain procedures, however, require a specific process of informed consent, including major and minor surgery; invasive procedures such as lumbar puncture or bone marrow aspiration; treatments placing the child at higher risk, such as chemotherapy or radiation therapy; procedures or treatments involving research; photography involving children; and applying restraints to children. Origin: Chapter 1, 23
A child needs a consent form signed for a minor surgical procedure. Which statement accurately describes the responsibilities of the health care providers when obtaining the consent?
A) The physician is responsible for ensuring that the consent form is completed with signatures from the parents or legal guardians.
B) The physician is responsible for serving as a witness to the signature process.
C) The nurse is responsible for informing the child and family about the procedure and obtaining consent.
D) The nurse is responsible for determining that the parents or legal guardians understand what they are signing by asking them pertinent questions.
Ans:D
Feedback:
The nurse’s responsibility related to informed consent includes the following: determining that the parents or legal guardians understand what they are signing by asking them pertinent questions, ensuring that the consent form is completed with signatures from the parents or legal guardians, and serving as a witness to the signature process. The physician or advanced practitioner providing or performing the treatment and/or procedure is responsible for informing the child and family about the procedure and obtaining consent by providing a detailed description of the procedure or treatment, the potential risks and benefits, and alternative methods available.  
Origin: Chapter 1, 24
The nurse is caring for a child brought to the emergency department by a babysitter. The child needs an emergency appendectomy and the parents cannot be contacted. What would be the nurse’s best response to this situation?
A) Have the babysitter sign the consent form even if she does not have signed papers to do so.
B) Have the primary care physician for the child sign the consent form.
C) Document failed attempts to obtain consent to allow emergency care.
D) Delay medical care until the child’s next of kin can be contacted.
Ans:C

Feedback:
Health care providers can provide emergency treatment to a child without consent if they have made reasonable attempts to contact the child’s parent or legal guardian (American Academy of Pediatrics, Committee on Pediatric Emergency Medicine, 2007). If the parent is not available, then the person in charge may give consent for emergency treatment if that person has a signed form from the parent or legal guardian allowing him or her to do so. During an emergency situation, a verbal consent via the telephone may be obtained. In urgent or emergent situations, appropriate medical care never should be delayed or withheld due to an inability to obtain consent.

Origin: Chapter 1, 25

The nurse knows that the emancipated minor is considered to have the legal capacity of an adult and may make his or her own health care decisions. Which of the following children would potentially be considered an emancipated minor?
A) A minor with financial independence who is living with his parents
B) A minor who is pregnant
C) A child older than 13 years of age who asks for emancipation
D) A minor who puts his or her medical decisions in writing
Ans:B

Feedback:
Emancipation may be considered in any of the following situations, depending on the state’s laws: membership in a branch of the armed services, marriage, court-determined emancipation, financial independence and living apart from parents, college attendance, pregnancy, mother younger than 18 years of age, and a runaway. Origin: Chapter 1, 26

After describing the procedure and medical necessity, the nurse asks a 14-year-old child to assent to a skin graft. Which statement accurately describes the requirements for this type of assent?
A) The age of assent occurs at 12 years old.
B) It is not necessary to obtain assent from a minor for a procedure.
C) A minor can dissent to a procedure but his or her wishes are not binding.
D) In some cases, such as cases of significant morbidity or mortality, dissent may need to be overridden.
Ans:D

Feedback:
Assent means agreeing to something. In pediatric health care, the term assent refers to the child’s participation in the decision-making process about health care (McCullough & Stein, 2009). In some cases, such as cases of significant morbidity or mortality, dissent may need to be overridden. The age of assent depends on the child’s developmental level, maturity, and psychological state. The converse of assent, dissent (disagreeing with the treatment plan), when given by an adolescent 13 to 17 years of age, is considered binding in some states.

Origin: Chapter 1, 27
27. The nurse is helping the family of a terminally ill child to fill out an advance directives form. Which options are usually determined by this document? Select all that apply.
A) Withholding food
B) Withholding water
C) Withholding antibiotics
D) “Do not attempt resuscitate” (DNAR) orders
E) Withholding ventilation
F) Providing artificial nutrition
Ans:C, D, E, F
Feedback:
Advance directives determine the child’s and family’s wishes should life-sustaining care become necessary. After discussion with other family members, friends, and spiritual advisors, the parents may make the decision to forego life-sustaining medical treatment, either withdrawing treatment or deciding to withhold certain further treatment or opt not to resuscitate in the event of cardiopulmonary arrest. Food and water are not withheld; however, some children may not be able to drink or eat and artificial nutrition may be withheld.
Origin: Chapter 1, 28

28. When integrating the principles of family-centered care, the nurse would NOT include which of the following?
A) Parents want to make decisions about their child’s treatment.
B) Families can make informed choices.
C) People have taken less responsibility for their own health.
D) Families require more information to make appropriate decisions.
Ans:C
Feedback:
Due to the influence of managed care, the focus on prevention, better education, and technological advances, people have taken increased responsibility for their own health. Parents now want information about their child’s illness, they want to participate in making decisions about treatment, and they want to accompany their children to all health care situations.
Origin: Chapter 1, 29

29. The school nurse monitors the amount of physical activity children in a local elementary school have planned for each day. This data will help most in meeting which foundation health measure of Healthy People 2020?
A) General health status
B) Health-related quality of life and well-being
C) Determinants of health
D) Disparities
Ans:B
Feedback:
Participation in common activities, which would include physical activity during the school day, is included in the foundation health measure of Health-related quality of life and well-being. The General health status measure includes measures such as physically and mentally unhealthy days, life expectancy, and chronic disease prevalence. Biology, genetics, and
individual behavior are included in the Determinants of health measure. Race/ethnicity, gender, and geography are measures of Disparities. Origin: Chapter 1, 30

The nurse is preparing a presentation regarding prevention of the unintentional injuries of drowning and bicycle accidents resulting in death. The population attending the presentation are parents of children ages 1 to 14. Which groups of parents would be best for the nurse to target when preparing this presentation? Select all that apply.

A) American Indian parents  
B) Parents of female children  
C) Parents who live in government subsidized housing  
D) Single parents  
E) Asian American parents

Ans:A, C, D

Feedback:

Unintentional injuries are the number one cause of death in children between the ages of 1 and 14 in the United States. Risk factors associated with childhood injuries include male gender, low socioeconomic status, parents who are unmarried or single, poor housing, and the highest rates of death are seen in American Indian/Alaska Natives children, followed by African American children.

Origin: Chapter 1, 31

The school nurse is reviewing the records of students in an elementary school. Based on current child morbidity rates, which child is the nurse most careful to monitor for days missed from school?

A) A child with asthma  
B) A child with contact dermatitis  
C) A child with severe hay fever  
D) A child with food allergies

Ans:A

Feedback:

Morbidity refers to illness present in a specific population at a given time. Asthma is the leading chronic disease in children, affecting 14% of children in the United States; 13% of children suffer from skin allergies, 9% have hay fever, and 6% have food allergies. Origin: Chapter 1, 32

The nurse in charge of the quality department is reviewing cases regarding HIPAA compliance. In which cases does the nurse correctly determine that HIPAA standards were followed? Select all that apply.

A) A child is diagnosed with an inner ear infection and follow-up care instructions are given to the child’s aunt, who provides a medical consent form from the parents, who are on vacation.

B) The emergency department nurse manager reports the suspicion of abuse to the child welfare department for a child admitted with suspicious injuries.

C) The grandparents of a child ask the nurse on the medical floor when their grandchild will be released home to the parents.

D) The physician reports the diagnosis of hepatitis C of a 14-year-old, who is abusing injectable drugs, to the health department.
E) The nurse manager tells the superintendent of schools that a high school student is infected with HIV so that proper precautions can be implemented in the school.
Ans: A, B, D

**Feedback:**
The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) of 1996 addresses security and privacy issues involving health information about individuals. Information can be shared with the client’s aunt because medical consent has been granted by the legal parents. An exception to the rule is the requirement to report suspected physical or sexual abuse of a child. In addition, public health laws require reporting certain infectious diseases, such as hepatitis C. The nurse should not provide information to the grandparents without written consent from the legal parents or guardian, nor should the nurse discuss a client’s health with the school superintendent. This information should be shared only with local health department.