

Medical Complexity Case

IPE

Learner Copy

Agenda:

10 mins Intro and Icebreaker

35 mins Case discussion

10 Evaluation, attendance and wrap up and dismiss.

I. Introduction and Icebreaker: Approximate time 10 minutes

The overarching goal is to prepare learners to work as a team in a clinical encounter with a patient that is wheelchair dependent, has medical complexity and multiple equipment needs.

Introduce yourself to the group by sharing the following:

- a. Name and school (type of training), where you grew up, and why you chose your field.

II. Case Discussion: Approximate time for case 35 minutes

Carolyn is a 24-year-old female who presents to your primary care office to establish care. She is accompanied by her grandmother, who has cared for her since she was one year old, and her home health nurse. She has a diagnosis of spastic quadriplegic cerebral palsy and uses a custom wheelchair for ambulation outside the home. She also has multiple pieces of medical technology including a baclofen pump, a gastrostomy tube, and a VP shunt. The medical assistant prepares to get the patient's vital signs and wonders how she should obtain her weight.

Questions for Discussion:

- 1. How do you feel after hearing the initial part of this case?*
- 2. What are some options for weighing this patient?*

The provider enters the exam room and finds Carolyn sitting in her wheelchair. The provider starts asking grandma about Carolyn's medical history and finds that Carolyn speaks up and begins answering questions. She has difficulty speaking, but the provider understands most of what she says. The provider also finds out that she was in special education classes in high school.

- 3. How do you feel after hearing this part of this case?*
- 4. How do you assess intellectual disability in a clinical encounter?*
- 5. What questions could you ask Carolyn to better understand her functional status?*

After obtaining the history, it's time to examine Carolyn. She has reported a concern about the skin on her lower back/bottom that you want to make sure to look at. In addition, she has a history of constipation, so you think a thorough abdominal exam is important for her as well.

6. *What is the best way to examine Carolyn's bottom and abdomen?*
7. *Who should be in the room for Carolyn's exam?*
8. *How might Carolyn move from her chair to the exam table?*

The social work team goes in to meet the family and mom mentions that they need a new g tube ordered, wheelchair modifications, and more diapers to come to their house each month. They also need refills on several of Carolyn's medications.

9. *What is a durable medical equipment company? How is this different from a pharmacy?*

III. Evaluation, Attendance and Wrap-Up Approximate time 10 minutes.

This work is supported by the Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities through a grant from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Washington, D.C. 20201, with a 100% federal funding award totaling \$6,121,860. Council efforts are those of the grantee and do not necessarily represent the official views of nor are endorsed by ACL, HHS, or the U.S. government.