

**Chapter 02: Critical Thinking and the Nursing Process**  
**deWit: Medical-Surgical Nursing: Concepts & Practice, 3rd Edition**

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**MULTIPLE CHOICE**

1. Which foundational behavior is necessary for effective critical thinking?
  - a. Unshakable beliefs and values
  - b. An open attitude
  - c. An ability to disregard evidence inconsistent with set goals
  - d. An ability to recognize the perfect solution

ANS: B

An open attitude not clouded by unshakable beliefs and values or preset goals allows the application of critical thinking. Acceptance that there may not be a perfect solution leaves the field open to new ideas.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension      REF: 16, Box 2-1  
OBJ: 2 (theory)          TOP: Factors Influencing Critical Thinking  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A                      MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

2. Which fundamental belief underscores the basis of the nursing process?
  - a. Recognition that basic needs must be met by the individual without assistance.
  - b. Acknowledgment that patients and families appreciate an efficient health care system that functions without their input.
  - c. A focus on disease control as the most important aspect of patient care.
  - d. Recognition that all people have worth and dignity.

ANS: D

The nursing process is based on the belief that all people have worth and dignity. Patient-centered care that is applied to all aspects of the patient's health, and is not just disease oriented, is appreciated by the family and patient. Holistic care approach can support the patient to meet basic needs.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension      REF: 17  
OBJ: 5 (theory)          TOP: Basic Beliefs Pertinent to the Nursing Process  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

3. The nurse is assessing a new patient who complains of his chest feeling tight. The patient displays a temperature of 100° F and an oxygen saturation of 89%, and expectorates frothy mucus. Which finding is an example of subjective data?
  - a. Temperature
  - b. Oxygen saturation
  - c. Frothy mucus
  - d. Chest tightness

ANS: D

*Subjective data* is information given by the patient that cannot be measured otherwise. The other data are considered objective data. Objective data are pieces of information that can be measured by the examiner. The nurse should avoid making judgments or conclusions when obtaining data.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 18  
OBJ: 8 (clinical)      TOP: Assessment Data  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

4. The nurse is caring for a newly admitted patient who is describing his recent symptoms to the nurse. This scenario is an example of which type of source?
- Primary
  - Objective
  - Secondary
  - Complete

ANS: A

The patient is the primary source of information. Objective refers to a type of data obtained by the nurse that is measured or can be verified through assessment techniques, secondary information is obtained from relatives or significant others, and information is not necessarily complete when the patient is the source.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 19  
OBJ: 8 (clinical)      TOP: Sources of Information  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

5. The nurse is performing an intake interview on a new resident to the long-term care facility. The nurse detects the odor of acetone from the patient's breath. Which term accurately describes this assessment?
- Inspection
  - Observation
  - Auscultation
  - Olfaction

ANS: D

Olfaction is an assessment method of smells. Inspection and observation use the sense of vision. Auscultation refers to use of the sense of hearing.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension                      REF: 20  
OBJ: 9 (clinical)      TOP: Olfaction      KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment  
MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

6. During a morning assessment, the nurse observes that the patient displays significant edema of both feet and ankles. Which statement best documents these findings?
- Pitting edema present in both feet and ankles
  - Edema in both feet and ankles approximately 4 mm deep
  - 4 mm pitting edema quickly resolving
  - Bilateral pitting edema in feet and ankles, 4 mm deep, resolving in 3 seconds

ANS: D

Edema should be recorded as to location, depth of pitting, and time for resolution.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 20  
OBJ: 9 (theory)      TOP: Palpation      KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment

MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Basic Care and Comfort

7. Which technique should the nurse employ to best assess skin turgor?
- Examine mucous membranes of the mouth.
  - Compare limbs for similar color.
  - Pinch a skinfold on chest to assess for tenting.
  - Palpate the ankles for evidence of pitting edema.

ANS: C

Skin turgor can be assessed by tenting the skin on the chest and recording the speed at which the “tent” subsides.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: 22

OBJ: 9 (clinical) TOP: Practical Assessment

KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment

MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance: Prevention and Early Detection of Disease

8. Which example shows that the nursing student demonstrates compliance with the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA)?
- The student uses the patient’s full name only on clinical assignments submitted to the instructor.
  - The student uses the facility printer to copy laboratory reports on an assigned patient.
  - The student shreds any documents that contain identifying patient information before leaving the clinical facility.
  - The student asks the patient for permission to copy laboratory and diagnostic reports for educational purposes.

ANS: C

HIPAA forbids any information used for educational purposes to have any identifying information; therefore, shredding documents would be appropriate. Full names on documents, printing copies of chart forms, and asking the patient for permission to copy forms would be violations of HIPAA regulations.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: 26

OBJ: 4 (theory) TOP: HIPAA KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation

MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

9. The diabetic patient who had blood drawn for an HbA<sub>1c</sub> level says, “I don’t know why they want to look at my hemoglobin.” Which response is most appropriate for the nurse to make?
- “Diabetes increases your risk of bleeding.”
  - “The HbA<sub>1c</sub> provides information relative to blood sugar levels for the last 2 to 3 months.”
  - “Hemoglobin levels and blood sugar levels are closely related.”
  - “The HbA<sub>1c</sub> tells if you have type 1 or type 2 diabetes.”

ANS: B

HbA<sub>1c</sub> evaluates the average blood glucose level for the last 2 to 3 months. By explaining the purpose of the common laboratory test (HgbA1c) and its relationship to diabetes, the nurse answers the patient’s question and clearly communicates relevant data.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: 25, 27

OBJ: 8 (clinical) TOP: Diagnostic Studies  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

10. The nurse is caring for a patient with the problem statement/nursing diagnosis of *Risk for Impaired Skin Integrity Related to Immobility*. Which goal/outcome statement best correlates with this diagnosis?
- The patient will sit in chair at bedside for 15 minutes after each meal.
  - The nurse will assist the patient to chair every shift.
  - The nurse will assess skin and record condition every shift.
  - The patient will change positions frequently.

ANS: A

The goal/outcome statement is directed at the etiology and should be patient oriented. The statement should be realistic and measurable and reflect what the patient will do.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: 24  
OBJ: 11 (clinical) TOP: Goals KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Basic Care and Comfort

11. The nurse who has recently moved from Louisiana to Texas is uncertain about the LPN/LVN's role in applying the nursing process. Which source is most appropriate source for the nurse to consult?
- Hospital policies
  - The Texas State Board of Nursing
  - Rules and regulations of the Louisiana Nurse Practice Act
  - The National Association of Practical Nurse Education and Service

ANS: B

Each state has different guidelines for areas of care planning, intravenous therapy, teaching, and delegation. The Texas State Board of Nursing is the most reliable source.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension REF: 17  
OBJ: 4 (theory) TOP: Nursing Process KEY: Nursing Process Step: N/A  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

12. The nurse adds a nursing order to the care plan related to a patient with a problem statement/nursing diagnosis of altered nutrition/*Nutrition: Less Than Body Requirements Related to Nausea and Vomiting*. Which nursing order should the nurse include in the plan of care?
- Medicate with an antiemetic before each meal.
  - Offer crackers and iced drink before each meal.
  - Change diet to clear liquids.
  - Give nothing by mouth until nausea subsides.

ANS: B

Offering crackers and iced drinks are within the scope of nursing; the other options would require a medical order to complete.

PTS: 1 DIF: Cognitive Level: Application REF: 18  
OBJ: 11 (clinical) TOP: Nursing Orders  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning

MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Basic Care and Comfort

13. After evaluating the nursing care plan, the nurse finds lack of progress toward the goal. What action should the nurse take next?
- Create a more accessible goal.
  - Revise the nursing interventions.
  - Change the problem statement/nursing diagnosis.
  - Use a new evaluation plan.

ANS: B

When lack of progress to reach the goal is seen on evaluation, the interventions are reviewed and/or revised.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 26  
OBJ: 10 (clinical)      TOP: Evaluation      KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

14. During an intake interview, the nurse observes the patient grimacing and holding his hand over his stomach. The patient previously denied having any pain. What action should the nurse take next?
- Examine the history closely for etiology of pain.
  - Ask the patient if he is experiencing abdominal pain.
  - Record that patient seems to be having abdominal discomfort.
  - Physically examine the patient's abdomen.

ANS: B

The nurse should try to resolve any incongruence between body language and verbal responses.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 20, Box 2-5  
OBJ: 7 (clinical)      TOP: Patient Interview  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment      MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

15. While conducting an admission interview, the nurse questions the patient about pain. The patient responds, "No. I'm pretty wobbly." Which action should the nurse take next?
- Repeat the question about pain.
  - Ask the patient to clarify his meaning.
  - Record that the patient denied pain.
  - Record that the patient stated he was wobbly.

ANS: B

The nurse should ask for clarification if unsure of what is meant by one of the patient's responses.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 20, Box 2-5  
OBJ: 7 (clinical)      TOP: Patient Interview  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment      MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

16. The nurse is caring for a patient with a goal/outcome statement of *Patient will sleep for 5 hours uninterrupted each night*. Which nursing intervention should the nurse include?
- Medicate with sedative each night.
  - Offer warm fluids frequently.

- c. Arrange for a large meal at supper.
- d. Discourage daytime napping.

ANS: D

Discouraging daytime napping increases the probability of sleep. Giving medication is a collaborative intervention as it requires an order. Large meal and large fluid intakes may interrupt sleep.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 25  
OBJ: 11 (clinical)      TOP: Nursing Intervention  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Basic Care and Comfort

17. The nursing team is prioritizing the problem statement/nursing diagnoses of an overweight hospital patient. Which problem statement/nursing diagnosis would be most important for this patient?
- a. Risk for dehydration related to vomiting.
  - b. Activity intolerance related to shortness of breath.
  - c. Knowledge deficit related to weight reduction diet.
  - d. Altered self-image related to excessive weight.

ANS: B

Activity intolerance is the highest priority as it has to do with activities that are essential to life. The second is Knowledge deficit related to weight reduction diet, followed by Altered self-image related to excessive weight, and the last is Risk for dehydration related to vomiting.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis                      REF: 23  
OBJ: 11 (clinical)      TOP: Setting Priorities  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Basic Care and Comfort

18. The nurse is explaining the components of a complete problem statement/nursing diagnosis. In addition to the NANDA stem and etiology, which other component should the diagnosis include?
- a. A time reference for meeting the need
  - b. A designation of what the patient should do
  - c. Signs and symptoms of the problem assessed
  - d. A specifically worded medical diagnosis

ANS: C

A complete problem statement/nursing diagnosis must have a NANDA stem, etiology, and signs and symptoms (etiology) of the problem.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Knowledge                      REF: 23  
OBJ: 4 (theory)      TOP: Nursing Diagnosis  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning                      MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

19. Which statement explains the reason for inclusion of potential problems in the nursing care plan?
- a. To alert nursing staff to prevent potential complications.
  - b. To remind the family of potential problems.

- c. To broaden the assessment of the caregiver.
- d. To educate the patient to aspects of her health.

ANS: A

Addressing potential problems prevents complications by early action rather than waiting for a problem to materialize.

PTS: 1                    DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension      REF: 23  
OBJ: 7 (clinical)      TOP: Potential Health Problems  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning      MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

20. The nurse is completing the medication reconciliation form for a patient. Which information is most important for the nurse to include?
- a. The patient reports taking *Ginkgo biloba* daily for the last 6 months.
  - b. The patient reports having high hematocrit levels during his last hospital stay.
  - c. The patient reports he has been diabetic for 10 years.
  - d. The patient reports having a recent infection.

ANS: A

As part of the medication reconciliation form, all home medications (including herbal preparations like *Ginkgo biloba*) are listed and reviewed by the provider, pharmacist, and nurses. The information gathered during the completion of this form may impact care that the patient will receive. Abnormal lab work and history of chronic or acute illnesses are important components of the patient's history but should not be part of the medication reconciliation form.

PTS: 1                    DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                    REF: 20  
OBJ: 7 (clinical)      TOP: Alternative Medicine  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Assessment  
MSC: NCLEX: Physiological Integrity: Reduction of Risk Potential

21. The LPN/LVN adheres to facility policy regarding core measures by performing which interventions during patient care?
- a. Administering the ordered amount of insulin to a patient with type 1 diabetes.
  - b. Performing a thorough patient assessment upon admission to the health care facility.
  - c. Documenting accurately and at appropriate intervals in the patient's record.
  - d. Providing patient teaching regarding proper diet for the patient diagnosed with renal failure.

ANS: A

Core measures are interventions that are based on scientifically researched, evidence-based standards of care, and are used to treat the majority of patients with a specific illness that often develops complications. Insulin administration for diabetics is evidence-based researched practice. The remaining options are good practice but are not considered core measures.

PTS: 1                    DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis                    REF: 25  
OBJ: 4 (theory)      TOP: Core Measures  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

22. The nurse is caring for a patient with pneumonia who complains of shortness of breath. Further assessment reveals an oxygen saturation of 89% on room air, 28 respirations/min with bilateral crackles in lung bases, blood pressure of 160/94, and a pulse rate of 102 beats/min. Which nursing diagnosis is priority for this patient?
- Activity Intolerance
  - Impaired Gas Exchange
  - Ineffective Cardiopulmonary Tissue Perfusion
  - Self-Care Deficit: Bathing and Hygiene

ANS: B

While all nursing diagnoses may apply to this patient, impaired gas exchange is the highest priority because this is the underlying problem for the other nursing diagnoses, as well as physiologically the highest priority.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Analysis                      REF: 23  
OBJ: 11 (clinical)      TOP: Nursing Diagnosis  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Management of Care

### MULTIPLE RESPONSE

23. The nurse explains to the nursing student that the application of critical thinking to patient care involves which factor(s)? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Identification of a patient problem
  - Setting priorities
  - Concentrating on the patient rather than family needs
  - Use of logic and intuition
  - Expansion of thought beyond the obvious

ANS: A, B, D, E

Critical thinking as applied to nursing care requires setting priorities of patient problems and needs by using logic and intuition. Inclusion of the family in the care makes the approach family oriented. Critical thinking should go beyond the obvious.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension                      REF: 15  
OBJ: 7 (clinical)      TOP: Critical Thinking  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

24. Which statement(s) demonstrates application of the nursing process? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Performing a head-to-toe assessment.
  - Updating the patient care plan on a weekly basis.
  - Evaluating if patient goals have been met.
  - Determining if nursing interventions need to be changed based on lack of patient progress toward meeting goals.
  - Ensuring that all personnel caring for the patient are implementing the care plan and working toward the same goal.

ANS: A, C, D, E

The nursing care plan should be updated as necessary, not just on a weekly basis. Concepts of the nursing process are demonstrated by performing orderly, logical head-to-toe assessments, as well as ongoing evaluation of patient goals and interventions to meet those goals.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension      REF: 17  
OBJ: 8 (clinical)      TOP: Nursing Process  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

25. Which example(s) demonstrate patient care that reflects knowledge of the National Patient Safety Goals? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Identifying the patient prior to medication administration by asking the patient to state his or her name.
  - Reporting any sentinel event to the facility's quality assurance team.
  - Assessing the patient's heart rate prior to administration of digoxin.
  - Performing hand hygiene prior to performing a patient assessment.
  - Documenting the appropriate time of medication administration.

ANS: C, D, E

Assessing the patient's heart rate prior to administration of digoxin demonstrates knowledge of medication actions and prevention of adverse effects; hand hygiene is required before any patient care, including assessment; and documentation of the time of medication administration is necessary to prevent medication errors. To meet National Patient Safety Goals, the nurse must use at least two methods of patient identification prior to medication administration. Reporting a sentinel event is required but demonstrates that National Patient Safety Goals were not met.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 4, 23  
OBJ: 4 (theory)      TOP: National Patient Safety Goals  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Safety and Infection Control

## COMPLETION

26. The nursing student demonstrates knowledge of the proper use of the \_\_\_\_\_ when determining that it is safe to administer meperidine (Demerol) and promethazine (Phenergan) together.

ANS:

Medication Reconciliation Form

The Medication Reconciliation Form tracks all medications the patient is taking as prescribed by different physicians and can identify overdoses or drugs that are not compatible.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 20  
OBJ: 8 (clinical)      TOP: Medication Reconciliation Form  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Implementation  
MSC: NCLEX: Safe, Effective Care Environment: Coordinated Care

27. Shortness of breath due to emphysema would be a major component of the \_\_\_\_\_ care plan.

ANS:  
interdisciplinary

An interdisciplinary care plan involves all members of the health care team and is based on the medical diagnosis rather than a problem statement/nursing diagnosis.

PTS: 1                      DIF: Cognitive Level: Application                      REF: 26  
OBJ: 8 (clinical)        TOP: Interdisciplinary Care Plan  
KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning        MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance

## MATCHING

*Place the steps of the nursing process in their proper sequence.*

- a. Evaluation
- b. Assessment
- c. Implementation
- d. Planning
- e. Problem statement/nursing diagnosis

28. Step 1
29. Step 2
30. Step 3
31. Step 4
32. Step 5

- |     |                                     |                 |  |
|-----|-------------------------------------|-----------------|--|
| 28. | ANS: B                              | PTS: 1          | DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension          |
|     | REF: 17                             | OBJ: 4 (theory) | TOP: Applying the Nursing Process            |
|     | KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning |                 | MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance |
| 29. | ANS: E                              | PTS: 1          | DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension          |
|     | REF: 17                             | OBJ: 4 (theory) | TOP: Applying the Nursing Process            |
|     | KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning |                 | MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance |
| 30. | ANS: D                              | PTS: 1          | DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension          |
|     | REF: 17                             | OBJ: 4 (theory) | TOP: Applying the Nursing Process            |
|     | KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning |                 | MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance |
| 31. | ANS: C                              | PTS: 1          | DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension          |
|     | REF: 17                             | OBJ: 4 (theory) | TOP: Applying the Nursing Process            |
|     | KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning |                 | MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance |
| 32. | ANS: A                              | PTS: 1          | DIF: Cognitive Level: Comprehension          |
|     | REF: 17                             | OBJ: 4 (theory) | TOP: Applying the Nursing Process            |
|     | KEY: Nursing Process Step: Planning |                 | MSC: NCLEX: Health Promotion and Maintenance |