

Facilitator Notes For MM

- How does chronic pain affect someone's state of mind?
- What is your experience working with spinal cord injury patients?
- Where would you begin as a health care provider for this patient?
- What is one way the health care team can collaborate to improve the care of this patient? Should/can any other providers be involved?
- What actions do you think are contributing to her healing? What might be enhancing her pain?
- How can you help this patient manage her diabetes?
- What role can a nurse play in helping this patient return to her ADLs?
- Does she have enough financial assistance for her health care costs and living expenses?
- How can a psychiatric evaluation help this patient?
- How can her family help M.M. cope with her conditions?
- What symptoms would you expect from a C4-C6 spinal cord injury?
- Why is she prone to UTIs and URIs? What risk factor does she have for a pulmonary embolus?
- What techniques did previous anesthesia provider's use to successfully intubate MM?
- Is flexeril a better way to control MM's muscle spasticity compared to baclofen?
- Is an ileal conduit a good alternative to a suprapubic catheter in regards to fewer UTI's and UTI associated hospitalizations?
- What additional assessments would be relevant for this patient?
- What pain techniques have you seen or used in a clinical setting that have been effective?
- What has been effective in your own pain relief experience?
- Do you agree with M.M.'s insistence on not using analgesics (pain medications) to help treat the pain she experiences?
- While the severe pain is most likely a result of the accident, do you feel that the dull constant pain is more a result of the accident or the fact that the accident has limited her mobility?
- What are your first thoughts or questions when working with someone with a spinal cord injury?
- What assumptions do you make about what you'll need to do to treat a person with a SCI?
- What do you think is the cause of MM's pain? Why?
- Is there someone the patient can talk to about her anxiety over using pain medication?
- Are there programs for chronic pain medication users to help prevent addiction?
- Are there any organic supplements or homeopathic methods or resources she could turn to?
- Would it be important to find groups or social events with similar physically limited individuals, or do you believe that interacting with this specific community would make M.M feel separated from the rest of society?
- What is more important in a case where people likely already feel very stigmatized and different from what society deems as "normal"?

Additional Resources

Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist: review her Anesthesia Data Record (ADR). This will contain information about prior surgeries, and techniques that other providers used during intubation.

Medical Student: full physical exam including neurological testing for upper and lower extremities, ROM of extremities, listen for heart and lung sounds, abdominal exam and mental health evaluation. Special tests: Babinski, L'Hermitte, Kernigs sign, Hoffman.

Nursing: pain scale, ask lifestyle goals, list of support groups, diabetes specialist, pain specialist, visiting nurse assessment, neurology assessment, psychology consult

Occupational Therapist: Bed Mobility Assessment, Occupational Profile, Home Evaluation, ADL Assessment

Pharmacy: What did your doctor tell you this medication was prescribed for? How used? Expectations of medication?

Physical Therapist: Physical Rehabilitation by O'Sullivan and Schmitz to review pain related to SCI and available arm motions for someone with C5 tetraplegia.