

SAMPLE NEXT GENERATION NCLEX SCENARIO

(Source: NCSBN RN sample pack download from NextGenNurses.org)

The nurse in the emergency department (ED) is caring for a 41-year-old male client.

Nurses' Notes

Diagnostic Results

Emergency Department

1100: Client reports nausea, loss of appetite, vomiting, fever, and constipation for the past 2 weeks and abdominal pain rated 7/10 on the Numerical Rating Scale for 1 week. Client states, "The abdominal pain started after my 7-year-old child accidentally kicked me in the stomach." Client plays soccer with the child once a week. Vital signs: T 103.4° F (39.7° C), P 92, RR 22, BP 130/86, pulse oximetry reading 98% on room air. No significant past medical or surgical history. Body mass index (BMI) of 32. Drinks alcohol only during social occasions, usually 3 beverages. Smokes cigarettes during social occasions.

Present at start of case study.

1130: Notified primary health care provider about client status. Awaiting orders.

Add before Item 4.

1230: Client transported to radiology department for abdominal computed tomography (CT) scan.

1245: 20-gauge peripheral venous access device (VAD) inserted into the left hand. VAD site patent without signs of infiltration. 0.9% sodium chloride (normal saline) infusing at 75 mL/hr.

Add this and Diagnostic Results before Item 5.

1400: Client reports sudden relief of abdominal pain. Vital signs: T 102.5° F (39.2° C), P 110, RR 20, BP 125/86.

1415: Primary health care provider notified about client status. Order received for an additional abdominal CT scan. Client transported to radiology department.

1800: Client transported to the operating room for an open appendectomy.

Add before Item 6.

Medical-Surgical Unit

2030: Client transported back to the medical-surgical unit.

2230: Client performing coughing and deep-breathing exercises every hour while awake with the incentive spirometer. Performing postoperative leg exercises every hour while awake. Nasogastric (NG) tube removed. Drinking clear liquids. Abdomen boardlike with diminished bowel sounds in all quadrants. Rebound tenderness present.

Nurses' Notes

Diagnostic Results

Abdominal CT scan

1230: Acute gangrenous appendix with calcified appendicolith.

Add before Item 5.

1445: Free intraperitoneal fluid noted consistent with a ruptured appendix.