

N395 Case Study 2

VII Sharps

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The Charge Nurse should delegate care as follows:

Charge Nurse - RN	LPN	Ward Clerk
1. Fainted Visitor 2. Mr. Smith who needs preparation for a cardiac catheterization including preoperative medication. 3. Dr. Russo is waiting to discuss a medication error that was made two weeks ago.	1. Mrs. Murphy's infiltrated IV, IV fluids, and 6PM antibiotic	1. Call environmental services to notify them of the waste overflowing in the public toilet. 2. Call for missing patient meals.

Registered Nurse

1. If the charge nurse walks onto the unit after her dinner break and finds a fainted visitor, that visitor becomes her absolute top priority. Not knowing why the visitor fainted she must give the visitor immediate medical care if necessary. Top priorities include ABC protocol with maintaining an open airway, breathing, and circulation.
2. In preparation for Mr. Smith's cardiac catheterization, the RN is responsible for all preoperative care, particularly assessment, education, and even the medication administration. Of particular importance are the pedal pulses for comparison for after the procedure. Due to the fact that this patient requires preoperative preparation, these duties cannot be delegated to the LPN.
3. Meeting with Dr. Russo is the Charge Nurse's responsibility, but it is the least important responsibility considering the scenario presented.

Licensed Practical Nurse

1. The RN should delegate the care of Mrs. Murphy to the LPN. The reason for this is that the LPN is IV-certified which means she has the ability to change Mrs. Murphy's infiltrated IV. What is more, based on the LPN's qualifications and JD, she is also permitted to administer IV fluids and the missed antibiotic. Delegating Mrs. Murphy's care to the LPN is particularly important because the time is now 7PM and the late antibiotic is pushing the window of medication administration of 1 hour which would be a medication error.

Ward Clerk

1. The ward clerk should be delegated administrative tasks that do not require clinical licensure and are more administrative in nature. Taking this into consideration, the ward clerk's top priority is to contact environmental services and inform them about the overflowing public toilet that has waste rapidly pouring out. This will be a short call and should be addressed first because of the potential public hazards it presents. These include risk for falls and infection control concerns.
2. Once the call to environmental services is complete, then the ward clerk should call the kitchen to inquire after the missing meals. This is an administrative task well within the scope of the ward clerk's abilities. Being that it affects 3 patients as opposed to the general public that would be put at risk due to the overflowing toilet it makes sense for this to be the second task of the ward clerk.