Strategies

to use in the lab/simulation

Activity: Health assessment

- Develop a scenario (simulation, written, or on-screen) with unexpected health assessment findings.
- Provide client information.
- Instruct students to do the following:
 - Identify relevant assessment findings.
 - Create a list of additional information to collect from client.
 - Identify the client's priority problem.
 - Identify priority intervention based on findings.
 - Identify desired client outcomes.
 - Document findings in the electronic health record.

CLIENT EXAMPLE

History and physical

- 82-year-old seen in ED with a temperature >101 F (>38.3 C) (oral)
- Abdominal cramps and diarrhea x 4 days
- Medical history of hypertension for 20 years
- Prostrate cancer 5 years ago

Nurses' notes

- Skin warm and dry with tenting
- Care partner says client has become confused and has not urinated for 8 hours
- Reports abdominal pain 8/10, nausea and vomiting x 3
- Reports drinking approximately 5 glasses of water with no food yesterday
- Dry mucus membranes
- Decreased urine output (amber color)
- Lung sounds clear bilaterally
- Heart sounds S₁S₂
- Bowel sounds hyperactive in all 4 quadrants.

Vital signs

- Temperature: 101 F (38.3 C) (oral)
- Respiratory rate: 16/min.
- Heart rate: 118/min.
- B/P: 114/66 mmHg