**Suggested Answers to Assignments, Chapter 42, Caring for People With Cancer**

| Written Assignments | Learning Objective(s) |
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| Assignment #1. Students complete Chapter 42 of *Lippincott Workbook for Nursing Assistants.* | 1–8 |
| Assignment #2. Students’ essays could include:   * Feeling frightened * Fearing death * Feeling anxious * Fearing side effects of treatment * Fearing disfigurement * Fearing pain * Fearing that even if treatment is successful, it will return again in the future | 8 |

| Group Assignments | Learning Objective |
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| Assignment #1. Each group will be assigned one of the seven warning signs of cancer:   1. Change in bowel or bladder habits 2. A sore that does not heal 3. Unusual bleeding or discharge 4. Thickenings or lumps 5. Indigestion or difficulty swallowing 6. Obvious change in a wart or a mole 7. Nagging or persistent cough or hoarseness 8. Sudden, unexplained weight loss   Alternative signs might include:   1. Change in appetite 2. Numbness of the fingers or toes 3. Unusual hair growth 4. Thick sputum 5. Intense hunger 6. Orange-colored urine 7. Night sweats | 4 |
| Assignment #2. Students will be assigned one of the following and will discuss how the nursing assistant can help the person experiencing them:   * Digestive problems   + Frequent mouth care   + Offer ice chips   + Accommodate food requests * Skin problems   + Prevent skin breakdown with gentle, thorough skin care * Mouth problems   + Offer drinks blended with ice, ice cream, yogurt, and fruit   + Frequent gentle oral care   + Using a numbing mouthwash or spray * Fatigue   + Mild exercise combined with periods of rest * Increased risk for infection   + Be very careful to protect the person from contact with others who have a contagious illness | 7 |

| Clinical Assignments | Learning Objective(s) |
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| Assignment #1. Arrange through an organization such as the American Cancer Society to have a cancer survivor come to the clinical area and talk to the class about being diagnosed and treated for cancer. | 6–8 |
| Assignment #2. Observations students should make when caring for a person who has cancer include:   * Severe nausea, vomiting, or both * Pain or sores in the mouth * Red or irritated skin * Unusual discharge or bleeding from the vagina, urethra, or rectum * Diarrhea or constipation * Redness, swelling, or pain around an IV or venous access site * Fever or other signs of infection | 7 |

| Web Assignment | Learning Objective |
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| Assignment #1. Students can enter “new cancer treatments” to find web sites such as:  <http://www.cancer.gov/cancertopics/treatment>  Students can enter “cancer research” to find such web sites as:  [http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org](http://cancerres.aacrjournals.org/) | 6 |