**Suggested Answers for Assignments, Chapter 43, Caring for Surgical Patients**

| Written Assignments | Learning Objectives |
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| Assignment #1. Complete Chapter 43 of *Lippincott Workbook for Nursing Assistants*. | 1–6 |
| Assignment #2. Students’ papers might include:   * The reason for the surgery * Type of anesthesia received * What the preparation for surgery included * Fear of not waking up from anesthesia * Fear of death from surgery * Fear of a surgical mistake occurring * Fear of pain after surgery * Worry about being off of work * Worry about how to pay for the surgery * Tests that were done prior to surgery * Complication prevention postoperatively | 1, 2, 3,5 |

| Group Assignments | Learning Objective |
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| Assignment #1. Groups will be assigned the following preoperative tasks and their discussions should include:   * Preoperative teaching   + Reinforce what the nurse has told the patient   + Keep the nurse informed of any questions the person may ask * NPO status   + Usually begins 6 to 8 hours before surgery   + Reduces the risk of aspiration and pneumonia   + Tell the person, as well as any visitors, that NPO means that the person may not have anything by mouth, including water, ice, gum, and mints   + Show visitors an area outside of the patient’s room they can enjoy their snacks and beverages * Administering a bowel prep, if ordered   + To prevent feces from contaminating the abdominal cavity * Bathing   + Reduces the number of microbes on the skin   + Special antimicrobial soap may be used * Grooming and dressing   + Removing makeup and nail polish   + Removing and safely storing prosthetic devices, glasses, contact lenses, hearing aids, dentures, wigs, jewelry, and hair ornaments   + Changing into a hospital gown * Immediately before surgery   + Outpatients will be shown to a private area to change into a hospital gown   + Ensuring the side rails are up and the person doesn’t get up without assistance after preoperative medications are given   + Call light in reach   + Warm and comfortable   + Removing hair as instructed   + Completing and recording tasks on the preoperative checklist   + Showing family members where they can wait | 4 |
| Assignment #2. Groups will be assigned the following complications and their discussions should include:   * Respiratory complications   + Causes include:     - Effects of anesthesia     - Postoperative pain medications     - Painful incisions     - Difficulty clearing airways of fluid and mucus     - Presence of chronic respiratory disorder   + Prevention includes:     - Coughing and deep breathing     - Incentive spirometry     - Early and frequent ambulation   + Nursing assistant’s role     - Frequent repositioning     - Assisting with coughing and deep breathing     - Assisting with incentive spirometry     - Elevating the head of the bed for easier breathing     - Supporting incision during respiratory exercises     - Assisting with ambulation according to the care plan * Cardiovascular complications   + Causes     - Slowed circulation due to anesthetic agents, pain medications, and immobility leads to pooling of blood, which results in thrombus formation   + Prevention includes:     - Intermittent pneumatic compression (IPC) device     - Antiembolism (TED) stockings     - Leg exercises     - Early and frequent ambulation   + Nursing assistant’s role     - Observe for and report problems with the IPC     - Apply TED stockings before the person gets up in the morning     - Assist with leg exercises according to the care plan     - If stockings are removed at night, wash and hang to dry     - Check with the nurse for specific instructions regarding leg exercises     - Assist with ambulation according to the care plan | 5 |

| Clinical Assignment | Learning Objective |
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| Assignment #1. Students will review the following observations they should watch for while assisting with the care of persons in postoperative recovery and report immediately to the nurse and to you, their instructor.   * There’s an increased amount of bright red drainage on the wound dressing or in the drainage device. * There is a significant change in the person’s vital signs. * The person is having trouble breathing or is making wheezing or gurgling sounds. * The person is restless, confused, or disoriented. * The person’s lips or nail beds are very pale or have a bluish tinge. * The person’s skin is cool or clammy. * The person complains of increased pain, tingling, or numbness of an extremity with a cast or a bandage. | 6 |

| Web Assignment | Learning Objectives |
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| Assignment #1. Provide the following list of surgical procedures for the students to choose from:   * Hip replacement * Abdominal hysterectomy * Mastectomy * Prostatectomy * Appendectomy * Herniorrhaphy * Cataract removal * Colectomy * Cardiac arterial bypass grafting   Students can find information by entering the name of the operation into their search engine. Students will share their information with the class. | 1, 2, 5, 6 |