**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 26, Caring for People Who Are Terminally Ill**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objective(s) |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Mary is in the acceptance stage of the grieving process. * Mary is planning how they will say good-bye to their children. * Mary is planning to leave behind a verbal message for their children as a way to remember Mary.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Mary’s husband is in the denial stage of the grieving process. * His disbelief in his wife’s pending death is evident in his statement to Mary that they shouldn’t be thinking of those things. * Mary’s husband has the belief that Mary will be well soon and go home. This is apparent in their statement to Mary that they will be out of here soon and they’ll be fine. | 2, 3 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * You will be concerned with meeting their physical needs, providing quality personal hygiene cares, repositioning, range-of-motion exercises, and other comfort measures. * You will be concerned with their emotional needs, allowing them dignity by recognizing and supporting them through the stages of the grieving process. * You will be responsive to their need for hope for a different outcome, but will not be unrealistic. * You will be concerned with their spiritual needs, and will report to the nurse any request for clergy or grief counseling. * You will report to the nurse any signs or symptoms of depression. * You will be aware of Marjorie’s wishes concerning resuscitation.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Remember the stages of the grieving process and that each person will experience them and react to them differently. * Understanding the grieving process stages will help you be more effective in meeting Marjorie’s needs. * If you have not already done so, explore your own attitudes and feelings about death in order to prepare yourself for the loss of Marjorie. * See a counselor or other professional if your feelings become too difficult for you to care for Marjorie and others effectively. * Recognize that you will also go through the grieving process along with Marjorie, and you will experience and react to them in your own individual way. This will involve introspection and self-understanding. | 4, 7 |
| 3a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * The resident has completed a legal document that has described in detail how they want their medical situation to be handled now that they are terminally ill.   3b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Mrs. Harding has decided that they don’t want to receive CPR or have any attempts made to resuscitate them at the time of their death. | 5 |