## **Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 10, Communicable Disease**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
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| 1. Students’ responses should include the following:  * Mrs. Treacher’s age of 84 is a risk factor because the elderly lose their defenses as they age. * She has poor general health. Her chronic problem of congestive heart failure weakens her defenses, and she would be less able to fight off a pathogen. * Lack of adequate rest and sleep leads to fatigue. This can affect the body’s ability to defend itself from pathogens. * The indwelling catheter is a device that increases a person’s risk of infection by providing a portal of entry for pathogens. * Care for Mrs. Treacher’s indwelling catheter using required sanitization practices. | 1, 3, 4, 5 |
| 2. Students’ responses should include the following:  * The portal of exit is the mouth and the nose. * The method of transmission is the mucus that is released in droplets from the mouth or nose when the person coughs, sneezes, or talks.      * MDROs are multi-drug resistant organisms that are resistant to one or more classes of antibiotics that may have been effective for treatment in the past. * MDROs are difficult to treat and are dangerous to patients and residents that do not have healthy immune systems. * Two examples of MDROs are methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus and vancomycin-resistant enterococcus. These easily spread from person to person via hands of health care workers. Handwashing is essential to prevent the spread of MDROs. * Staphylococcus aureus is often found on a person’s skin and upper respiratory tract. | 3, 4 |
| 3. Students’ response should include the following:  * The patient’s age and diabetes increase his risk of developing an infection. | 1, 5 |