**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 47, Safety and Infection Control in the Home Health Care Setting**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Are there any loose carpets or throw rugs lying about? * Are walkways uncluttered and wide? * Is there adequate lighting? * Are night lights available? * Is there a phone near the bed as well as a light? * Is there seating for the tub or shower? * Is there a no-slip rubber bath mat available? * How steady is the client when ambulating? * How mobile are they in bed? * Do they have emergency phone numbers at hand?   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * You must make sure the case manager is made aware of the client’s needs by reporting your observations. * It is not your responsibility to change the client’s home to ensure safe conditions. * It is your responsibility to provide care as safely as possible without putting yourself or the client at risk for injury. This might mean modifying care you provide until changes in the home have been made.   1c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Keep your car in good repair, and always start out with a full tank of fuel. * Choose the safest route of travel. * Avoid driving or walking through unknown areas and alleys. * Take a defensive driving course. * Always keep your car doors locked and stay alert for strangers who may wish to cause you harm. * Leave excessive amounts of cash and expensive personal items (such as jewelry or electronics) at home. * Do not leave items in plain view on the car seat. Instead, take them with you or put them in the trunk or under the seat before leaving the car. * Always lock your car. * Visit clients who live in unsafe neighborhoods during the day, preferably during the morning hours. * Speak with the case manager about arranging an escort to help ensure your safety. * Park your car in a safe, well-lit area as close to the client’s home as possible. * Choose the safest walking route to reach the home. * When walking between your car and the client’s home, be aware of other people, strange animals, and your surroundings in general. * Wear a name badge identifying yourself as a home health care provider according to your agency policy. | 1, 4, 6 |
| 2a. Students’ response should include the following:   * You suspect that Mrs. Frugal is saving her used toilet paper, drying it,and reusing it.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * You should call your case manager immediately and report what you have found. * You should follow the directions given by the case manager. * Remember, it is not your responsibility to make changes in your client’s home to ensure sanitary conditions. * Use standard precautions and good infection control methods while in Mrs. Frugal’s home.   2c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Raw or cooked food that is not stored properly can easily spoil and cause food poisoning. * Leftovers should be placed in appropriate sealed containers, labeled, and refrigerated. * Food in the refrigerator should be inspected and disposed of before it is outdated or spoiled. * The refrigerator itself should be cleaned with hot, soapy water periodically. * After each use, clean kitchen counters and stovetops with a disinfectant solution. * If the house has a dishwasher, rinse the dishes and utensils and place them in the dishwasher. * When the dishwasher is full, run it using the hot water cycle and dishwasher detergent. * Pots, pans, and other items that are not “dishwasher safe” should be washed by hand using hot, soapy water. * If possible, allow these items to air dry in a rack. * Otherwise, use a clean dish towel or paper towels to dry them. | 1, 4, 5 |