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

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
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| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Severe vomiting, nausea, or both * Diarrhea or constipation * Sores in the mouth * Red or irritated areas of the skin * Complaints of pain and discomfort * Fever or other signs of infection * Redness, swelling, or pain around their intravenous site   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Offer frequent gentle oral care. * Provide ice chips. * Offer fluids and foods as tolerated. * Provide gentle, thorough skin care. * Offer soothing drinks. * Encourage mild exercise. * Use good listening skills to allow them to express their concerns and fears. * Request that another aide be assigned to Mrs. Miller if you are sick with a cold or other infectious illness. | 7, 8 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Pain from surgery * Risk of infection of surgical wound * Risk of infection from lowered immunity due to therapy * Hair loss (alopecia) * Digestive problems * Skin problems * Mouth problems * Fatigue   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Recognize their right to make this choice. * Try to understand the reasons why they have made this decision. * Respect their decision. * Use good listening skills to show them you care. * Do not give your opinion about their decision. * Allow them to verbalize their fears and feelings. | 6, 7, 8 |
| 3a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * People can take steps to lower their risk of developing cancer by:   + Eating a healthy diet   + Exercising   + Avoiding smoking   + Avoiding job-related carcinogens   3b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * + CAUTION!     - **C**hange in bowel or bladder habits     - **A** sore that does not heal     - **U**nusual bleeding or discharge     - **T**hickenings or lumps     - **I**ndigestion or difficulty in swallowing     - **O**bvious change in a wart or mole   + **N**agging or persistent cough or hoarseness   + Many cancers are detected during routine physical examinations, or by screening tests that are done on a regular basis. Encourage your friend to have routine examinations as appropriate such as mammograms, Pap smears, and colonoscopies. The early detection of cancer allows the tumor to be removed before it has time to spread to nearby tissues. | 3, 4, 5 |