**Suggested Answers to Discussion Topics, Chapter 29, The Integumentary System**

| Suggested Answers for Topics for Discussion | Learning Objectives |
| --- | --- |
| 1a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Because of the paralysis from their stroke, they are unable to change position independently. * They arevery advanced in age, and have fragile and thin skin with less circulation. * They have not been eating or drinking enough over the past 2 weeks, leading to poor nutrition and hydration. * They are incontinent of stool and urine, making their skin moist. * They have peripheral vascular disease, which means they have decreased oxygen being supplied to the tissues. * They wear a wrist splint. * They have become less physically active.   1b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Prevent any one part of their body from being under pressure for a long period of time by repositioning them at least every 2 hours. * When you provide care, observe their skin carefully for reddened areas. * Clean their skin gently and rinse well. Apply lotion. Apply cornstarch powder where skin touches skin. * Stimulate circulation by giving frequent back massages. * Promptly clean them of urine and feces. Apply barrier cream if ordered. * Check them every hour or so to detect if they were incontinent. * Move them between bed and chair several times a day. * When moving them in bed or chair, use lift sheet or draw sheet to prevent friction and shearing. * Do not elevate head of bed greater than 30 degrees. * Offer them fluids during the day. * Encourage them to eat, and report to the nurse if they do not. * Request pressure-reducing devices for them such as elbow pads and heel booties. * Check the skin under their wrist splint during care for areas of redness or irritation. * Keep your fingernails and Mr. Shaw’s fingernails short and filed smooth to avoid injuries to their skin.   1c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Problems with regulating their body temperature. * Increased risk for developing an infection. * Problems regulating their fluid and electrolytes. | 4 5, 6 |
| 2a. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Mildred’s incisions as well as the site for the Jackson-Pratt drain are intentional wounds. * Mildred’s wounds are healing by first intention.   2b. Students’ responses should include the following:   * As tissues heal, redness, swelling, pain, and drainage should decrease. If there is an increase in any of these, it should be reported to the nurse, as it may indicate wound infection. * When taking vital signs, temperature elevation should be reported to the nurse immediately. It may be a sign of infection. * Check the amount of drainage, as well as the color and odor. Report any abnormalities or increase in amount to the nurse immediately. * Take great care when bathing and moving them to prevent the drain from being pulled out. * Look at the incision lines to make sure there is no suture or staple that has worked loose. * Cover the drain insertion site with plastic and seal it with tape when bathing Mildred to keep the dressing dry.   2c. Students’ responses should include the following:   * Less mobile * Fragile skin * Impaired circulation * Impaired nutrition | 4, 7, 8 |