# Answers to Questions in the Workbook, Chapter 47, Safety and Infection Control in the Home Health Care Setting

Activity A IDENTIFY THE STATEMENT

* 1. FI
  2. FA
  3. FI and FA
  4. FA
  5. FA
  6. FI
  7. FA
  8. FI
  9. FA
  10. FI

Activity B MATCHING

1. d

2. e

3. f

4. h

5. i

6. c

7. a

8. g

9. b

Activity C TRUE OR FALSE

1. F. It is NOT the responsibility of the home health aide to make the changes necessary to ensure safe conditions in their client’s home.

2. T

3. F. It is NOT the responsibility of the home health aide to investigate whether or not abuse has actually occurred before reporting it to the case manager.

Activity D FILL IN THE BLANKS

1. Bag technique is a procedure that is used to keep your tote bag free from contamination.

2. When you arrive at the client’s home, place your tote bag on a clean surface, such as the kitchen table, after laying down a clean barrier**.**

3. After performing proper hand hygiene, remove the equipment you will need from the tote bag.

4. After you use your equipment, clean and disinfect it, then return it to its proper location in your tote bag.

5. To transport specimens, such as urine or sputum samples, to the agency or laboratory, contain them in a sealed plastic bagand place it in your car in a separate area away from clean supply bags.

Activity E SHORT ANSWER

1. When cleaning floors and other household surfaces, remember to (1) empty dirty mop water into the toilet, not into sinks where food will be prepared; (2 ) disinfect mop heads and sponges after use by soaking them in a 1:10 bleach and water solution; and (3) clean up blood or body fluid spills immediately.
2. When preparing foods for a client, besides washing your hands and making sure that the surface where you will be preparing the food is clean, you must remember to (1) take note of expiration dates on packaged foods; (2) avoid using eggs that are cracked; (3) thoroughly wash and dry fresh fruits and vegetables before serving them; (4) cook meat and poultry thoroughly, according to the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) safe food handling labels; and (5) use a clean spoon each time if you must taste the food to check for seasonings.
3. Leftovers should be placed in appropriate, sealed containers, labeled, and refrigerated.
4. Some of the duties of a home health care aide that are related to assisting clients with personal hygiene are bathing, washing hair, brushing teeth, changing the client’s clothing, changing the client’s bed linens frequently, washing soiled linens and clothing, and drying the laundry.
5. Always perform proper hand hygiene (1) when you first arrive at a client’s home; (2) whenever your hands become visibly soiled with blood or other body fluids or substances; (3) whenever you remove your gloves; and (4) after each task or procedure that you perform.
6. Inform your caseworker so that an OSHA-approved sharps container can be obtained for Mrs. Sheen and that the nurse can teach her how to properly dispose of the used syringes and needles.

Activity F SHORT ANSWER

1. Your car’s condition: Keep your car in good repair, and always start out with a full tank of fuel.

2. Your travel route: Choose the safest route of travel. Avoid driving or walking through unknown areas and alleys.

3. Emergency car kit equipment: Include flares, a blanket, a shovel, food, drinking water, a flashlight and batteries, jumper cables, and a tire jack.

4. Driving in ice and snow: Be prepared with snow tires, a bag of sand or kitty litter (for weight and traction), and windshield washer fluid.

5. Personal items: Leave 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.

6. Visiting clients who live in unsafe neighborhoods: Visit clients who live in unsafe neighborhoods during the day, preferably during the morning hours. Or, speak with the case manager about arranging an escort to help ensure your safety.

7. Parking your car: Park your car in a safe, well-lighted area as close to the client’s home as possible.

8. Choosing your walking route: 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.

9. Self-defense in case of an attack: Consider taking a self-defense course. If you are attacked, use your bag, arms, and hands to protect your face, neck, and throat. Kick the attacker with your legs. Use your car keys to slash the attacker’s face.

10. Sharing your schedule: Make sure that someone else (your case manager, a friend, or family member) knows your planned schedule. Follow your schedule and check in with the office frequently.

* 1. Your phone: Carry a fully charged phone with you at all times.