NURS 6512 WK5 ASSIGNMENT Advanced Health Assessment & Diagnostic Reasoning

Instructions

Assignment 1: Case

Study Assignment: Assessing the Head, Eyes, Ears, Nose, and Throat

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Most ear, nose, and throat conditions

that arise in non-critical care settings are minor in nature. However, subtle

symptoms can sometimes escalate into life-threatening conditions that require

prompt assessment and treatment.

Nurses conducting assessments of the

ears, nose, and throat must be able to identify the small differences between

life-threatening conditions and benign ones. For instance, if a patient with a

sore throat and a runny nose also has inflamed lymph nodes, the inflammation is

probably due to the pathogen causing the sore throat rather than a case of

throat cancer. With this knowledge and a sufficient patient health history, a

nurse would not need to escalate the assessment to a biopsy or an MRI of the

lymph nodes but would probably perform a simple strep test.

In this Case Study Assignment, you

consider case studies of abnormal findings from patients in a clinical setting.

You determine what history should be collected from the patients, what physical

exams and diagnostic tests should be conducted, and formulate a differential

diagnosis with several possible conditions.

To Prepare

By Day 1 of this week, you will be assigned to a

 specific case study for this Case Study Assignment. Please see the “Course

 Announcements” section of the classroom for your assignment from your

 Instructor.

Also, your Case Study Assignment should be in the

 Episodic/Focused SOAP Note format rather than the traditional narrative

 style format. Refer to Chapter 2 of the Sullivan text and the

 Episodic/Focused SOAP Template in the Week 5 Learning Resources for

 guidance. Remember that all Episodic/Focused SOAP Notes have specific data

 included in every patient case.

With regard to the case study you were assigned:

Review this week's Learning Resources and consider the

 insights they provide.

Consider what history would be necessary to collect

 from the patient.

Consider what physical exams and diagnostic tests would

 be appropriate to gather more information about the patient's condition.

 How would the results be used to make a diagnosis?

Identify at least five possible conditions that

 may be considered in a differential diagnosis for the patient.

The Assignment

Use the Episodic/Focused SOAP Template and

create an episodic/focused note about the patient in the case study to which

you were assigned using the episodic/focused note template provided in the Week

5 resources. Provide evidence from the literature to support diagnostic tests

that would be appropriate for each case. List five different possible

conditions for the patient's differential diagnosis and justify why you

selected each.

Case

Study

Richard is a 50-year-old male

with nasal congestion, sneezing, rhinorrhea, and postnasal drainage. Richard

has struggled with an itchy nose, eyes, palate, and ears for 5 days. As you

check his ears and throat for redness and inflammation, you notice him touch

his fingers to the bridge of his nose to press and rub there. He says he's

taken Mucinex OTC the past 2 nights to help him breathe while he sleeps. When

you ask if the Mucinex has helped at all, he sneers slightly and gestures that

the improvement is only minimal. Richard is alert and oriented. He has pale,

boggy nasal mucosa with clear thin secretions and enlarged nasal turbinates,

which obstruct airway flow but his lungs are clear. His tonsils are not

enlarged but his throat is mildly erythematous.

Remember…..this is just a

portion of the SOAP note. You will be creating the remainder of the

information.