

TODAY:

1. Read case notes together
2. Discuss in groups & plan
3. Produce detailed plan

Homework: Introduction

Robert Smithson

OCCUPATIONAL ENGLISH TEST

WRITING SUB-TEST: NURSING

TIME ALLOWED: READING TIME: 5 MINUTES
WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task which follows.

Notes

Assume that today's date is 10 April 2018

You are a ward nurse working in the burns unit of Berkeley General Hospital. A patient, Robert Smithson, has been admitted to your unit from the Emergency Department, after being in a house fire.

Patient:	Robert Smithson
Marital status:	Single
Age:	22
Address:	23 Main Street, Berkeley
Next of kin:	Mary Smithson (mother), lives nearby, close relationship with son.
Admission date:	06 Apr 2018
Discharge date:	10 Apr 2018 (pending consultant's report).
Diagnosis:	Partial-thickness burns on 18% TBSA (neck and chest). Respiratory distress.
Medical history:	Infectious mononucleosis (16yo). No current medications. Tonsillectomy (age 8 yo). Appendectomy (age 15 yo). Varicocele (age 19 yo) percutaneous embolization. NIL allergies.
Medical background:	Partial-thickness burns on neck and chest (18% TBSA). Respiratory distress. Soot in oral cavity.
Social background:	Part-time medical student. Lives alone. Enjoys swimming, amateur dramatics. Active, eats a healthy diet.

Nursing management and progress:

- Irrigation with running cool tap water.
- IV fluids.
- High-flow Oxygen.
- Blood: FBC, type and crossmatch, carboxyhaemoglobin, serum glucose, electrolytes. Arterial blood gases (normal range).
- Fiberoptic laryngoscopy – intubation deemed unnecessary.
- Chest X-ray
- Cardiac monitoring (normal ranges).
- Circulation monitoring to rule out hypovolaemic shock.
- BP (130/80).
- Pt closely monitored for development of stridor, hoarseness, coughing, wheezing. (None present).
- Hourly monitoring urinary output - indwelling urinary catheter inserted.
- Elevation of the head and torso.

Medications:

Naproxen 500 mg 1 tab orally b.i.d.
Tramadol HCL 50mg 1 tab orally b.i.d. p.r.n.
Gabapentin 300 mg by mouth daily before bed.
Tetanus prophylaxis.

Assessment (09 Apr 2018):

Patient stabilised, breathing normally .
No infection.
Afebrile.
Bloods normal.

Discharge plan:

Wound cleansing and topical dressings (Dr, community nurse, or Burns Outpatients).
Daily auscultation by Dr or community nurse.
Pt given instructions on how to:
- apply high factor sunscreen when out.
- moisturise and massage area to reduce dryness.
- do deep breathing exercises → lung expansion, drainage secretions.
Follow nutritious, light, high-protein diet, plenty of fluids. Light activity, no contact sports.
Follow-up appointment 17 Apr 2018 (Burns Unit Outpatients).

Writing task:

Using the information given in the case notes, write a discharge letter to Robert Smithson's doctor, Dr Martins, 29 Cowslip Avenue, Berkeley.

In your answer:

- expand the relevant notes into complete sentences
- do not use note form
- use letter format

The body of the letter should be approximately 180-200 words.

How do we plan a letter usually?

1. Decide on paragraphs*
2. Choose what is relevant
3. Decide what to summarise [make shorter]

OET SANDWICH:

Introduction	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor • Discharged 'pending'
Timeline	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 6th April: partial thickness burns (18 percent) • Chest & neck • Respiratory distress • Monitored: wheezing, strider, etc. • Medication: names only [summary!] <p>SUMMARISE MOST OF THIS</p>
Current Condition	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stabilised • Breathing normal • Afebrile / No infection?* • Bloods: normal?*
Requests	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wound care [Dr / Nurse / Outpatients] • Daily auscultation [Dr or Nurse] • Please note: told about sunscreen, dryness, and breathing exercises • Diet* • Appointment 17th April

What do we do in the exam?

Ambiguous →

do deep breathing exercises → lung expansion, drainage secretions.
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