

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

You are a ward nurse working in the osteopathy unit at Newton General Hospital. A patient, Miss Hilary Di Santo, has been admitted to your unit for a planned hallux valgus operation on her right foot.

Patient: Ms Hilary Di Santo

Age: 70 years old

Marital status: Single

Next of kin: Sister, Linda, also single, 72 yo, shares room with pt at Rosewood Care Home. Very supportive.

Admission date: 23/06/2018

Discharge date: 24/06/2018

Diagnosis: R hallux valgus
Ongoing high BP

Social background: very active, walks, swims, enjoys social life and sheltered atmosphere provided by Rosewood.
Many interests, travelling, reading, cinema, theatre.
No longer drives
Retired at 60 from nursing career.
Adequate pension, non-smoker, alcohol nil.

Treatment: R Osteotomy (23/06/2018)
Staples, surgical boot.

Past medical history: Pneumonia (2000)
Hypertension – since age 50 (Verapamil 80mg TID)
Hysterectomy (2001)
Osteotomy L foot (2010)
Allergies: latex, dust mites, nickel
Mother, sister → bunion

Medical background Pt presents with severe pain in R first metatarsophalangeal (MTP) joint, slight swelling, difficult ambulation, requiring osteotomy.

Nursing management: Vital signs (normal limits)
ECG normal range
Oral analgesia (Panadeine Forte, codeine/paracetamol 30/500mg x 2, 6 hrly p.r.n.).
Antibiotic therapy (Augmentin Duo Forte 875/125mg orally b.d.).

Assessment: Overall good progress

Discharge plan: Monitor medication compliance (Panadeine Forte, Augmentin Duo Forte, for review at completion of current course).
Verapamil to continue
Elevation of right foot
Bed rest, avoid weight-bearing
Ice if needed
Review in Osteopathy Outpatients on 07.07.2018 (removal surgical boot and staples, application brace for support).
Preserve skin integrity after removal of boot
Equipment required: crutches (provided by hospital).
Follow-up physiotherapy Outpatients (appointments to be fixed at osteopathy review).

Anticipated needs of patient: Help with ADLs, showering, toilet use etc.

Writing task:

Using the information given in the case notes, write a discharge letter to Denise Pizzica, Rosewood Care Home, 44, High Street, Newton, where Ms Di Santo is a resident.

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.