

Essay Questions

Read the following complaint scenarios or situations and answer the questions that follow. The questions that follow each scenario may have multiple answers. The number of points assigned to each question represents the number of expected correct answers. Each correct answer receives one point and no additional credit will be given. Write your answers in the space below each question. Short and simple answers are best.

1. Mrs. Turnley is an 88 year old widow with one daughter. She has resided in this nursing facility for three years. She has a history of diabetes and for years has refused to follow the prescribed treatment for this condition. During the last couple of years, Mabel Turnley has developed other disabilities which have restricted her enjoyment of life.

Now Mrs. Turnley has gangrene in both legs. She has become despondent and apathetic. Although she is usually able to tell people exactly what she wants, she has begun to occasionally lose her train of thought. Her statements aren't always directly relevant to the conversation and the nursing home administrator does not believe she can make her own decisions.

When her physician advises Mabel that both legs must be amputated in order to save her life, she refuses the surgery. Mrs. Turnley's daughter Jane, who does not have power of attorney or guardianship, says that Mabel is tired of living with increasing disabilities and wouldn't want to continue without her legs. Jane supports her refusal of the surgery. The administrator states that he will transfer Mabel out of the nursing home if she continues to refuse surgery, stating that this action is consistent with facility policy regarding refusal of treatment.

- a. When you visit Mrs. Turnley, you observe that she is very sleepy and only responds to some of your questions; you are unable to determine her capacity to make decisions. What alternatives are available to you for obtaining consent to handle this problem? (2 points)

- b. What is one thing you would look for to determine whether a client is basing her decision on informed consent? (1 point)

