

Scenario #2 Heather



You are the nurse on a busy Medical/Surgical Unit. Heather, a 25 yr old female was admitted yesterday following surgical repair of a left tibia/fibula fracture. You are her nurse, and you ask her how she is feeling. She also tells you how she broke her leg. You ask her if she needs pain medication.

“I am so jittery! See my hands are shaking, I’m sweaty and dizzy, and I can’t sit still. Keep the lights off! I have a headache. Yes, I need a pain pill. I sure could use a drink, too. My leg hurts a lot!”

“I don’t remember how I fell and broke my leg. Since my boyfriend left me, I have been drinking almost a bottle of vodka a day. But it’s not a problem. I can quit whenever I want to. Soon I’ll find a new job, too.”

“Don’t call my mother. I don’t want her to know I am limping around and that I don’t have a place to stay anymore. I don’t need her help. She just makes things worse. If you had problems like mine, you would need something to settle your nerves, too!”