

Scenario #3

Kate



You are the nurse on a busy Medical/Surgical Unit. Kate, 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’ve been falling in holes. My voices were telling me where to go, and I stumbled. I couldn’t feel my left leg. It was like there was electricity running through it. My case manager brought me here because my leg was broken and I couldn’t walk. Now I have this wheelchair.”

“I won’t take any of the medication you brought. They told me it is poison. I can’t sleep anymore because of the chattering. Sometimes the voices are loud and angry. Yesterday they told me to hurt myself. Medicine cannot think, but if it did, I still wouldn’t take it. I know it has something to do with my brain. I learned about it 5 years ago when my face got stiff and quit working. My head is flat. See? That’s why I come to the hospital so much. Sometimes I need help.