

Scenario #7 Bethany



You are the nurse on a busy Medical/Surgical Unit. Bethany, 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 can’t concentrate or focus on what you are saying. I had an upsetting phone call yesterday. I screamed into the phone several times but there was no one there. I dropped the phone. My heart started racing, and I was cold with sweat. I needed air. I couldn’t catch my breath, and I thought I was going to die. I ran out of the house, then fell off the steps and broke my leg.”

“Something is really wrong with me. My leg hurts too much. What if it keeps hurting? I can’t stand it! What if it doesn’t heal? Oh no! I just remembered about the terrible germs here. What if it gets infected? I wash my hands all the time, but the bed sheets probably have germs in them!”

“Yes, I want pain medication. But I don’t want to get addicted. My life is messed up enough already! I wish I could get some sleep. I’ve been too worked up to settle down. What’s happening to me? I hate feeling like this.”