

them to websites and other aspects of society that encourage experimentation with drugs.

Critical Thinking Case Study

Prescription Medication Abuse in Adolescence

An 8th-grade teacher calls the school nurse, Sally, to her classroom and reports that a girl is behaving “strangely;” the girl slept most of the period before lunch and has not participated in class discussions. Sally, the RN, takes the girl to her office and performs an initial assessment. Upon assessment, the girl demonstrates short-term memory lapse and has slightly slurred speech, and her pupillary reaction to light is delayed; her blood pressure is 112/68 mm Hg, respirations are 14 breaths/min and regular, and heart rate is 102 beats/min. She denies taking any pills or liquid initially but then states she had a migraine on arrival to school and a friend gave her two blue pills to help with the headache. She refuses to say who gave her the pills and does not know what they were but thought they were Tylenol. She states that she does not know where her mother and father are but thinks they are at work.

Questions

1. Evidence: Is there sufficient evidence for Sally to implement a plan of care for this adolescent?
2. What should Sally's next course of action involve? What is her professional responsibility in this case?
3. Assumptions: Describe the underlying assumptions about the following:
 - a. The school nurse's physical assessment findings
 - b. The misuse of prescription medications by adolescents
4. What nursing priorities and implications for care can be made at