

2. Assumptions:

- a. Complementary and alternative medicine (CAM) is more common in American households than previously reported. Much of the concern surrounding complementary therapies, especially in children, is the lack of sufficient data regarding their effectiveness, benefit, and the potential harm that may occur as a result of such treatments. In some cases, CAM therapies may counteract certain medications or the effects of prescribed therapies. It has become more common for practitioners in emergency medicine to encounter patients who are taking CAM therapy in addition to prescription medications or treatments for conditions such as eczema, asthma, colds, and upper respiratory tract problems.
- b. Folk remedies are common among certain ethnic groups and subgroups within the United States. Many are based on traditional family remedies that have been proven to be neither effective nor entirely harmful in most cases. However, a few remedies could be potentially harmful, especially to children, if these remedies counteract the effects of prescribed treatments that are known to be effective.
- c. The nurse's role in such cases is to gather sufficient data from the family about the practice, discuss the treatment (CAM) in a nonjudgmental manner, and be cognizant of the effects of the treatment on the