

Introduction to Wound Care Scenario (Focus on Empathy) Instructor Resource

READ the following scenario:

Ms. Johnson is a pleasant 82-year-old female who was just admitted to the hospital due to a wound on her coccyx area. She lives alone in a house she has had for 55 years. Her husband passed last year and the only company she has is her beloved cat named, Lucy. Due to past medical conditions, she has difficulty moving. She spends most of her time in bed watching television or knitting. She states her “bottom has been sore for a long time” and she props herself up with pillows. Lately, the pain increased and she noticed bloody sheets where she had been laying. She just wants someone to bandage it so she can get back home.

The health care provider has diagnosed her with a stage III pressure injury - a deep crater with full thickness skin loss and moderate drainage. Treatment will take several weeks. Due to the severity of the wound and her limited mobility, the provider feels she should not return home and be admitted to a long term care facility instead. The provider asks you to discuss this new living arrangement with her.

REFLECT on the situation:

- How do you feel about discussing moving to a long term care facility with Ms. Johnson?
- How do you think Ms. Johnson will feel about not returning home? Why?
- What do you think may happen if she does return home?

SHARE your thoughts with a peer:

- *Validate that this is a hard conversation to have with a patient. It is important to think about what and how you are going to discuss the topic before entering the room. Be ready to listen to the patient’s concerns and comfort if needed.*
- *Ms. Johnson most likely will be upset. By moving, she will leave memories of her life and need to find a home for her cat. It is essential to discuss her reasons to stay at home as well as discuss her current medical needs.*
 - *You may split the class in half. One side represents Ms. Johnson’s feelings and the other side represents the health care provider’s feelings.*
- *If she returns home, she has a high risk of infection, pain, increased mobility problems, self-care issues and non-healing of the wound.*