

## STAFF COMPETENCY

### “Best Practices for Improvement in Management of Oral Medications”

A Web Ex Presentation by Linda Krulish PT MHS COS-C  
and Stephanie Mello MSN MBA RN COS-C, OASIS Answers, Inc.

**Directions:** Choose the **ONE BEST** response to the following questions. Circle the letter (a, b, c, or d) which identifies the **ONE BEST** response.

1. In order to accurately assess the client's ability to manage their oral medications, the clinician needs to use a combined approach of interview and \_\_\_\_\_ in the assessment.
2. When assessing management of oral medications, the clinician is assessing:
  - a. who sets up the medications most of the time
  - b. the client's ability to manage his/her oral medications
  - c. the client's knowledge about medication side effects
  - d. the adverse effects that the client is experiencing from medications
3. M0780 states, “Management of Oral Medications: Patient's ability to prepare and take all prescribed oral medications reliably and safely, including administration of the correct dosage at the appropriate times/intervals.” The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) has clarified “all” to mean:
  - a. every dose of medication is taken correctly
  - b. all important medications are taken correctly all of the time
  - c. all important medications are taken correctly most of the time
  - d. all medications are taken correctly most of the time
4. You are admitting a client into your home care program who was recently discharged from the hospital with asthma. She is on a tapering dose of Prednisone for the next seven days. This is her only medication. Your assessment reveals that the client does not understand how to take the Prednisone correctly. You have brought with you a medication box and set up the Prednisone for her for the next week. She says, “I can do this” and explains correctly when she will take the pills out of the box. How would you complete the SOC M0780?
  - a. 0 – Able to independently take the correct oral medication(s) and proper dosage(s) at the correct times
  - b. 1 – Able to take medication(s) at the correct times if:
    - (a) individual dosages are prepared in advance by another person, OR
    - (b) daily reminders are given, OR
    - (c) a drug diary or chart is developed
  - c. 2 – Unable to take medications unless administered by someone else
  - d. UK – Unknown

5. Your new client, Mrs. Frenzen, is being admitted into home care services after suffering from a stroke. She is experiencing weakness in her dominant hand as a result of the stroke. She also has severe arthritis and was unable to demonstrate that she could open her medication box or remove the lid from a medication bottle. Which discipline would you obtain a referral for?
  - a. medical social worker
  - b. occupational therapy
  - c. physical therapy
  - d. speech language pathology
  
6. Mr. Jones, your new admission with a new diagnosis of diabetes, tells you that he will only take the Diabinese once a day, instead of the ordered twice a day. Upon further questioning he states that he does not have enough money to buy his pills, pay his rent, and buy groceries. His solution is to use half the amount as needed for his diabetes. Which discipline would you order a referral for?
  - a. medical social worker
  - b. occupational therapy
  - c. physical therapy
  - d. speech language pathology
  
7. When selecting a type of medication box, you need to consider all of the following, EXCEPT:
  - a. client's ability to open the box
  - b. the number of pills the client takes in a day
  - c. the size of the agency logo on the box
  - d. client's visual ability
  
8. Your agency is requiring all clinicians to use the "Med Teaching Strategies" tool as a guideline for client education related to medications. You feel that you have always done a good job of client education and are resistant to using the new guideline. The purpose of having all clinicians use the same guideline for medication teaching is:
  - a. to promote a consistent approach to assessing, teaching, and evaluating the client's knowledge and abilities with medications
  - b. to provide you with an option to help in your assessment and instruction regarding medication management
  - c. to control what you teach your clients about medication management
  - d. to give you one more piece of paper to carry along with you on your visits
  
9. Mrs. O'Neill is a new admission to your agency. As her primary nurse you are responsible to manage her care. She has a new diagnosis of heart failure, but has had diabetes and emphysema for the last ten years. With the addition of her new heart failure meds, she now takes 11 medications every day. To help simplify her complex medication regimen, you would:
  - a. Remove/discard old and expired medications (with her permission)
  - b. Ask the pharmacist to review her medications for appropriateness
  - c. a only
  - d. a and b
  
10. The Beers Criteria is:
  - a. a list of medications that most of the elderly take
  - b. a list of potentially inappropriate medications for the elderly
  - c. a list of medications that the elderly should never take
  - d. a list to help you determine what medications need to be discontinued for your elderly clients

## ANSWERS: STAFF COMPETENCY

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1. observation

*(A combined observation/interview approach with the patient or caregiver is necessary to determine the most accurate response for MO780, OASIS Implementation Manual 6/06)*

2. b

3. d

*(If a client's ability to manage medications varies, REVIEW TOTAL NUMBER OF MEDICATIONS AND DAILY DOSES to determine what is true most of the time, OASIS Implementation Manual 6/06)*

4. c

You are assessing what they were like before you performed your home care intervention

5. b

6. a

7. c

8. a

9. d

10. b