

Week 3 Discussion: Unfolding Case Study

Lillian fell when she was returning from the bathroom after the suppository. The nurse found her sitting on the floor complaining of pain on the left side of her rib cage. The nurse called for help and assisted Lillian back to bed. She notified the physician and completed the necessary reports. The physician ordered a follow-up chest X-ray that came back within normal limits. Lillian had a small bruise on her rib cage but no fracture. The physician gave the nurse the following orders over the phone.

- Acetaminophen (Tylenol): 325 mg PO every 4 hours as needed for pain.
- Zolpidem (Ambien): 5 mg PO at bedtime for sleep
- Alprazolam (Xanax): 0.5 mg PO as needed for anxiety.

1. How would the nurse assess Lillian's pain, and when would the nurse assess for pain when giving the acetaminophen?

The nurse would assess Lillian's pain using the pain scale of 0 to 10 (0 being no pain and 10 being the worst pain), and observation of the facial expression, posture. Following the pain level, asking the provoking factors for pain, quality of pain (Is it pricking, throbbing, or stabbing pain), pain radiating to other parts of the body, location of the pain, and the onset of the pain which helps the nurse to assess the amount of pain the patient is experiencing (Lilley et al., 2020). The nurse will also do a thorough head to toe assessment to check if any other injuries are present. The nurse will give Acetaminophen to Lillian after assessment of her pain. The nurse will reassess Lillian's pain after 1 hour to determine the