

END OF LIFE NURSING CASE STUDY

Ms. Susan is a Hospice nurse working for a home health agency. While preparing to make rounds she must decide which client needs to be seen first and which interventions have priority.

- (A) Mr. Adams, a 76-year-old client, diagnosed with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) who has not felt like participating in family meals.**
- (B) Mrs. Petty, a 62-year-old client, diagnosed with breast cancer and bone metastasis who is complaining of pain in her spine unrelieved by the pain medications.**
- (C) Mrs. Tahama, an Asian woman, who refuses to take pain or sleeping medications and who cannot seem to get rest or sleep.**
- (D) Mr. James, a 42-year-old client, diagnosed with diabetes and renal failure who is short of breath, restless, and is now incoherent.**

1. List the order in which the clients should be seen and explain the rationale for this order.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____

2. Ms. Susan completed the assessment. What interventions should Ms. Susan implement for Mr. James?

3. List five ways culture may affect compliance with the medically recommended care during the death and dying process.

- 1) _____
- 2) _____
- 3) _____
- 4) _____
- 5) _____

4. How should Ms. Susan approach Mrs. Tahama to discuss her refusal to take medication?

5. Which interventions should Ms. Susan implement when admitting a client to Hospice?

6. Ms. Susan should teach the client and significant other what to expect while a client is on Hospice. List care the client will receive while in hospice care.
