

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. Which statement best describes *community-based nursing*?
 - a. A practice in which care is provided for individuals and families.
 - b. Providing care with a focus on the group's needs.
 - c. Giving care with a focus on the aggregate's needs.
 - d. A value system in which all clients receive optimal care.

ANS: A

By definition, community-based nursing is a setting-specific practice in which care is provided for "sick" individuals and families where they live, work, and attend school. The emphasis is on acute and chronic care and the provision of comprehensive, coordinated, and continuous care. These nurses may be generalists or specialists in maternal–infant, pediatric, adult, or psychiatric mental health nursing. Community-based nursing emphasizes acute and chronic care to individuals and families, rather than focusing on groups, aggregates, or systems.

2. Which statement **best** describes the goal of *community-oriented nursing*?
 - a. Providing care to individuals and families
 - b. Providing care to manage acute or chronic conditions
 - c. Giving direct care to ill individuals within their family setting
 - d. To preserve, protect, promote, or maintain health and prevent disease

ANS: D

By definition, community-oriented nursing has the goal of preserving, protecting, or maintaining health and preventing disease to promote the quality of life. All nurses may focus on individuals and families, give direct care to ill persons within their family setting, and help manage acute or chronic conditions. These definitions are not specific to community-oriented nursing.

3. Which of the following is the primary focus of public health nursing?
 - a. Families and groups
 - b. Illness-oriented care
 - c. Individuals within the family unit
 - d. Health care of communities and populations

ANS: D

In public health nursing, the primary focus is on the health care of communities and populations rather than on individuals, groups, and families. The goal is to prevent disease and preserve, promote, restore, and protect health for the community and the population within it. Community-based nurses deal primarily with illness-oriented care of individuals and families across the life span. The aim is to manage acute and chronic health conditions in the community, and the focus of practice is on individual or family-centered illness care.

4. Which of the following is responsible for the dramatic increase in life expectancy during the 20th century?
 - a. Technology increases in the field of medical laboratory research
 - b. Advances in surgical techniques and procedures
 - c. Sanitation and other population-based prevention programs
 - d. Use of antibiotics to fight infections

ANS: C

There has to be indisputable evidence collected over time that public health policies and programs were primarily responsible for increasing the average life span from 47 in 1900 to 78.6 years in 2017, an increase of approximately 60% in just over a century plus through improvements in (1) sanitation, (2) clean water supplies, (3) making workplaces safer, (4) improving food and drug safety, (5) immunizing children, and (6) improving nutrition, hygiene, and housing. Although people are excited when a new drug is discovered that cures a disease or when a new way to transplant organs is perfected, it is important to know about the significant gains in the health of populations that have come largely from public health accomplishments.

5. A nurse is developing a plan to decrease the number of premature deaths in the community. Which of the following interventions would most likely be implemented by the nurse?
 - a. Provide free health care to all citizens
 - b. To increase the number of individuals with access to effective health care benefits
 - c. Lower the cost of health care to the American population
 - d. To lessen the governmental burden of providing health care to Americans

ANS: B

The central feature in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) of 2010 are the mechanisms to increase the number of people with health insurance. The care provided is not necessarily free. While the cost of health care and the burden it places on the American government are serious concerns, they are not the primary focus of ACA.

6. What is the basic assumption stated by *Healthy People 2010* as it relates to public health efforts?
- Health disparities among any groups are morally and legally wrong.
 - Health care is the most important priority in government planning and funding.
 - The health of individuals cannot be separated from the health of the community.
 - The government is responsible for lengthening the life span of Americans.

ANS: C

The major premise of *Healthy People 2010* was that the health of the individual cannot be entirely separate from the health of the larger community. Public health practice focuses on the community as a whole, and the effect of the community's health status (resources) on the health of individuals, families, and groups. The goal is to prevent disease and disability and promote and protect the health of the community as a whole. Public health can be described as what society collectively does to ensure that conditions exist in which people can be healthy. The basic assumptions of public health do not judge the morality of health disparities. The focus is on prevention of illness not on spending more on illness care. Additionally, individual responsibility for making healthy choices is the directive for lengthening life span not the role of the government.

7. Which of the following actions would most likely be performed by a public health nurse?
- Asking community leaders what interventions should be chosen
 - Assessing the community and deciding on appropriate interventions
 - Using data from the main health care institutions in the community to determine needed health services
 - Working with community groups to create policies to improve the environment

ANS: D

Although the public health nurse might engage in any of the tasks listed, he or she works primarily with members of the community to carry out core public health functions, including assessment of the population as a whole and engaging in promoting health and improving the environment. The interventions of asking community leaders which interventions should be chosen, assessing the community and deciding on appropriate interventions, and using data from health care institutions do not demonstrate the engagement of the community when making decisions about what the community actually wants and needs.

8. Which public health nurse most clearly fulfills the responsibilities of this role?
- The nurse who met with several groups to discuss community recreation issues
 - The nurse who spent the day attending meetings of various health agencies
 - The nurse who talked to several people about their particular health concerns
 - The nurse who watched the city council meeting on local cable television

ANS: B

Any of these descriptions might represent a nurse communicating, cooperating, or collaborating with community residents or groups about health concerns. A major challenge for the future is the need for public health nursing specialists to be more aggressive in working collaboratively with various groups in the community as well as professional colleagues in institutional settings to deal with barriers to health. However, the nurse who spent the day attending meetings of various health agencies is the most representative, because in public health, concerns are addressed from a broader perspective. In public health, broad concerns of the community should be addressed. Concerns are broader than recreation, individual concerns are not as important as aggregate priorities, and watching television (a one-way form of communication) is less effective than interacting with others.

9. Which of the following best defines *aggregate*?
- A large group of persons
 - A collection of individuals and families
 - A collection of people who share one or more characteristics
 - Another name for demographic group

ANS: C

An aggregate is defined a collection of people who share one or more personal or environmental characteristics. Members of a community can be defined in terms of either geography (e.g., a county, a group of counties, or a state) or a special interest (e.g., children attending a particular school). These members make up a population. The term *population* may be used interchangeably with the term *aggregate*. A large group of persons, a collection of individuals and families, and another name for demographic group are not accurate definitions of the term aggregate.

10. Which question asked by a novice nurse would be the most reflective of an understanding of the role of a public health nurse?
- "Which groups are at the greatest risk for problems?"
 - "Which patients should I see first as I begin my day?"
 - "With which physicians will I be most closely collaborating?"
 - "With which nursing assistants will I partner the most?"

ANS: A

Asking which groups are at greatest risk reflects a community-oriented perspective. The incorrect responses reflect a focus on individuals rather than a community-oriented perspective.

11. Making sure that essential community-oriented health services are available defines which of the core public health functions?
- Policy development
 - Assessment
 - Assurance
 - Scientific knowledge-based care

ANS: C

Assurance includes making sure that essential community-oriented health services are available in the community. The definition does not fit the terms *assessment*, *policy development*. Scientific knowledge-based care is not a core function of public health. Assessment is systematic data collection on the population, monitoring the population's health status, and making information available about the health of the community. Policy development refers to efforts to develop policies that support the health of the population, including using a scientific knowledge base to make policy decisions.

12. When talking to a women's group at the senior citizens' center, the nurse reminded them that the only way the center would be able to afford to provide transportation services for them would be for them to continue to write letters to their local city council representatives requesting funding for such a service. What was the nurse trying to accomplish through this action?
- Ensure that the women did not expect the nurse to solve their problem.
 - Demonstrate that the nurse understood the women's concerns and needs.
 - Express empathy, support, and concern.
 - Help the women engage in political action.

ANS: D

Public health nurses engage themselves and others in policy development and encourage and assist persons to communicate their needs to those with the power to take action. The nurse is demonstrating the role of advocate through this action, it goes beyond merely understanding the women's concern, and instead mobilizes them to take action. This action does not demonstrate the nurse showing empathy rather the nurse is empowering these women.

13. The public health nurse has a clear vision of what needs to be done and where to begin to improve the health of the community. Why would the nurse spend time meeting with community groups to discuss the most important task to be addressed first?
- To increase the group's self-esteem
 - To maintain communication links with the groups
 - To make the groups feel good about their contribution
 - To work with the groups, not for the groups

ANS: D

Historically, health care providers have been accused of providing care *for* or *to* people without actually involving the recipients in the decisions. Public health nursing is a "with the people"—not a "to the people" or "for the people"—approach to planning. There is an imperative to work with members of the community to carry out core public health functions. The purpose of meeting with community groups is not to increase their self-esteem or make them feel good about their contribution, rather it is to allow them to act for themselves to solve the problems they are facing. The first task of working with the group should occur before addressing maintaining communication links.

14. The nurse often has to make resource allocation decisions. Which of the following best describes the criterion the nurse should use in such cases?
- The specific moral or ethical principle related to the situation
 - The cheapest, most economical approach
 - The most rational probable outcome
 - The needs of the aggregate rather than a few individuals

ANS: D

The dominant needs of the population outweigh the expressed needs of one or a few people. All of the choices represent components of a decision that the nurse might consider in determining the needs of the aggregate.

15. Which of the following actions best represents public health nursing?
- Assessing the effectiveness of the high school health clinic
 - Caring for clients in their home following their outpatient surgeries
 - Providing care to children and their families at the school clinic
 - Administering follow-up care for pediatric clients at an outpatient clinic

ANS: A

A public health or population-focused approach would look at the entire group of children being served to determine whether available services are effective in achieving the goal of improving the health of the school population. Caring for clients and their families focuses on individuals and families and not on the entire population. Public health focuses on care of populations.

16. Two nurses plan to walk under a huge downtown bridge where various homeless persons live. Why would the nurses go to such an unsafe area?
- To assess the needs of the homeless who live there
 - To demonstrate their courage and commitment
 - To distribute some of their own surplus clothes to those who can use them
 - To share with various churches and other charities what is needed

ANS: A

In most nursing practices, the client seeks out and requests assistance. In public health nursing, the nurse often reaches out to those who might benefit from a service or intervention, beginning with assessment of needs. The other answers reflect responses where the nurse is trying to give assistance to this population that may or may not be helpful or welcomed.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE

1. Which of the following variables have led to a stronger commitment to population-focused services? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Economic turmoil and demand for high-technology care
 - Emergence of new or drug-resistant infectious diseases
 - Emphasis on overall health care needs rather than only on acute care treatment
 - Threat of bioterrorism

ANS: B, C, D

As overall health needs become the focus of care in the United States, a stronger commitment to population-focused services is emerging. Threats of bioterrorism, anthrax scares, and the emergence of modern-day epidemics have drawn attention to population-focused safety and services. Economic turmoil and demand for high-technology care have not contributed to a stronger commitment to population-focused services, rather it has occurred as overall health needs have become the focus of care.

2. Which of the following actions demonstrate effective public health nursing practice in the community? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Epidemiologic investigations examine the environment for health hazards.
 - New services are organized where particular vulnerable populations live.
 - Partnerships are established with community coalitions.
 - Staff members at the public health agency continue to increase in number.
 - Staffing walk in clinics for low income families

ANS: A, B, C

Evidence that public health nurses are practicing effectively in the community would include organizing services where people live, work, play, and learn; working in partnerships and with coalitions; and participating in epidemiologic studies. Neither increasing the number of staff nor acting as staff in the delivery of acute and/or chronic care has a relationship to the effectiveness of public health nursing practice.

3. Why are nurses increasingly providing care in clients' homes rather than in hospitals? (*Select all that apply.*)
- Home care is less expensive.
 - It is much more efficient to give care in the home.
 - Nurses prefer to give home care with individual attention.
 - People prefer to receive care in their homes rather than in hospitals.

ANS: A, D

An increasing number of clients are receiving care in the home because it is less expensive and clients prefer to receive care in familiar and comfortable settings. It is not more efficient nor more convenient, since travel time has to be considered. Nurses differ as to their preferred employment setting.

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. A nurse is considering applying for a position as a public health nurse. Which of the following would be a reason this position would be appealing?
 - a. Its autonomy and independence
 - b. Its focus on acute care and immediately visible outcomes
 - c. Its collaboration with other health care professionals
 - d. Its flexibility and higher wages

ANS: A

Public health nursing is known for its autonomy and independence. In many instances, there are limited other health care professionals and staff with whom to interact. In-patient acute care nurses focus on acute care with outcomes known fairly quickly. Acute care nurses collaborate frequently with other health care professionals. Depending on the position there may be more flexibility, but typically public health nurses do not receive higher wages.

2. The Elizabethan Poor Law of 1601 is similar to which current law?
 - a. Welfare
 - b. Food stamps
 - c. Medicaid
 - d. Medicare

ANS: C

The Elizabethan Poor Law guaranteed medical care for poor, blind, and "lame" individuals. This minimal care was generally provided in almshouses supported by local government similar to Medicaid assistance. Welfare and food stamps do not provide for medical care. Medicare provides medical care to primarily the elderly population.

3. How did the Industrial Revolution result in previous caregiving approaches, such as care by families, friends, and neighbors, becoming inadequate?
 - a. Economic and political wars resulted in frequent death and injuries.
 - b. Incredible plagues consistently and constantly swept the European continent.
 - c. Migration and urbanization resulted in increased demand for care.
 - d. Caregivers could easily find other employment, so they demanded to be paid.

ANS: C

Care became inadequate because of the social changes in Europe, with great advances in transportation, communication, and other technologies. The increased mobility led to migration and urbanization, which in turn led to increased need for care. The Industrial Revolution was a time of great advances in technology, transportation, and communication, not a time of economic and political unrest or a time where incredible plagues occurred in Europe. Caregivers during this time period were typically poorly educated and untrained, so there was not an issue related to wages or employment.

4. A colonist is working in the public health sector in early colonial America. Which of the following activities would have likely been completed?
 - a. Establishing schools of nursing
 - b. Developing vaccines to administer to large numbers of people
 - c. Collecting vital statistics and improving sanitation
 - d. Developing public housing and almshouses

ANS: C

Collecting vital statistics and improving sanitation are examples of activities from the early colonial America. Establishing schools of nursing, developing vaccines to administer to large numbers of people, and developing public housing and almshouses all happened after the colonial period.

5. Why did American citizens become interested in establishing government-sponsored boards of health?
 - a. They were afraid of infectious diseases such as yellow fever.
 - b. The government could force the poverty-stricken to accept care.
 - c. Such boards could tax and thereby ensure adequate funds to pay for care.
 - d. Such a system would allow for accurate records of births and deaths.

ANS: A

Threat of disease, especially yellow fever, led to public interest in establishing government-sponsored, or official, boards of health. The threat of disease was the impetus for creation of the boards of establishing boards of health. The primary interest of the boards of health was to provide public health services for the entire population and not only those who were poverty-stricken. The primary purpose of the boards of health was not to collect accurate vital statistics or receive tax dollars rather its purpose was to ensure the health of the population.

6. A nurse was employed by the Marine Hospital Service in 1800. Which of the following interventions would the nurse most likely have implemented?
- Setting policy on quarantine legislation for immigrants
 - Establishing hospital-based programs to care for the sick at home
 - Identifying and improving environmental conditions
 - Providing health care for merchant seamen

ANS: D

Providing health care to seamen was an early effort by the federal government to improve public health. The purpose of the Marine Hospital Service was to secure its maritime trade and seacoast cities. Quarantine legislation was enacted by legislation during this time period, but the nurse would not have been responsible for setting these policies. Nursing care for clients in the home began in the first half of the 1800s through a variety of agencies including the Ladies' Benevolent Society of Charleston South Carolina. Identifying and improving environmental conditions was a focus of the public boards of health, not necessarily specifically a role of the nurse.

7. What was the outcome of the Shattuck Report?
- Efforts to control alcohol and drug abuse, as well as tobacco use, were initiated.
 - Environmental sanitation efforts became an immediate priority.
 - Guidelines for modern public health organizations were eventually developed.
 - Local and state governments established boards of health after its publication.

ANS: C

It took 19 years for the first of Shattuck's recommendations to be implemented, but his report was the first effort to create a modern public health organization. This report called for broad changes to improve the public's health to take place; however, these changes did not happen immediately after publication. They took 19 years to be implemented in the first state of Massachusetts. The report included establishment of a state health department and local health boards in every town, sanitary surveys, and food, drug, and communicable disease control, but none of these changes happened quickly.

8. Which nurse is famous for creating public health nursing in the United States?
- Florence Nightingale
 - Frances Root
 - Lillian Wald
 - Mrs. Solomon Loeb

ANS: C

Lillian Wald established the Henry Street Settlement and later emerged as the established leader of public health nursing during its early decades. Mrs. Solomon Loeb was a wealthy layperson who assisted Mary Brewster in the establishment of the Henry Street Nurses Settlement. Francis Root was the first trained nurse in the United States who was salaried as a visiting nurse. Florence Nightingale had many accomplishments, but none of these occurred in the United States.

9. Which of the following would have been the focus of a school nurse in the early 20th century?
- Investigating causes of absenteeism
 - Teaching school as well as being a nurse
 - Promoting nursing as an autonomous practice
 - Providing medical treatment to enable children to return to school

ANS: A

Early school nursing focused on investigating causes of absenteeism. Providing medical treatment was the responsibility of physicians. School nurses did not teach in the schools nor were they part of an autonomous practice during this time period.

10. A nurse is reviewing the original work of the National Organization for Public Health Nursing. Which accomplishments of today were started within this organization?
- Requiring that public health nurses have a baccalaureate degree in nursing
 - Standardizing public health nursing education
 - Developing public health nursing competencies
 - Opening the Henry Street Settlement

ANS: B

The National Organization for Public Health Nursing sought to improve the educational and services standards of public health nursing. The Henry Street Settlement was already in existence and was opened by Lillian Wald and Mary Brewster. The baccalaureate degree in nursing was not developed yet. Public health nursing competencies were developed by the Quad Council.

11. Why were nurses so unprepared for public health nursing in the early 20th century?
- Public health nursing had not yet been created as a field.
 - No one would teach the nurses how to engage in public health activities.
 - Nightingale's textbook did not include content on public health nursing.
 - Nurses were educated in diploma schools, which emphasized care of hospital clients.

ANS: D

Nursing school courses taught in diploma schools of nursing emphasized hospital care of patients; thus, nurses were unprepared for home visiting. The specialty of public health nursing practice was developed in the early 1800s. There was not a lack of teachers for this activity, rather the focus of nursing care was in the acute care setting and not in the community. Nightingale did not have a published textbook.

12. A nurse is considering joining the American Public Health Association (APHA). What information about this organization should be considered when making this decision?
- APHA focuses on the public health concerns of the medical profession.
 - APHA represents concerns of nursing specialty practices.
 - APHA provides a national forum for nurses to discuss their public health concerns.
 - APHA focuses on providing health promotion education to the public.

ANS: C

APHA was formed to facilitate interprofessional efforts and promote the "practical application of public hygiene." The Public Health Nursing Section within APHA provides nurses with a national forum to discuss their concerns and strategies within the larger context of the major public health organization. It also serves as a focus of leadership and policy development for community/public health nursing. The focus of public health concerns of the APHA is broader than only the medical profession. The APHA focuses on concerns of public health nurses, not all nursing specialty practice. The APHA focuses on practical application of public hygiene, which is broader than only health promotion education.

13. Why did the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company establish and retain for several years the first community nursing health program for policyholders?
- Creating such a service was the morally correct thing to do
 - Employing nurses directly was less expensive than paying taxes to the city for the same purpose
 - Having the company's nurses make home visits increased worker morale
 - Public health nurses visits led to fewer policyholder deaths and lowers company costs

ANS: D

Metropolitan Life saw an average decline of 7% in the mortality rate of policyholders and almost a 20% decline in the deaths of children under the age of 3 years. The insurance company attributed this improvement and the associated reduced costs to the work of visiting nurses. There was limited funding in the early 20th century to extending nursing services in the community; thus, home visiting was a very expensive service to provide. Although Metropolitan Life Insurance Company may have increased worker morale that was not the primary reason for continuation of the program.

14. Which client would have been most likely to receive care from the Frontier Nursing Service?
- An injured soldier
 - A homebound, elderly male
 - A woman in labor
 - A child with a broken femur

ANS: C

The Frontier Nursing Service nurses were trained in nursing, public health, and midwifery and provided care to rural and inaccessible areas, which led to reduced mortality. Care for soldiers, elderly, and children was not the focus of the care provided by the Frontier Nursing Service.

15. A public health nurse is determining what type of programming should be developed for the community. Which of the following is the most crucial factor that will influence program development?
- Comprehensive assessment and planning done in the community
 - Documented needs of the local community
 - Federal funding for priority diseases or groups
 - Nursing staff's expertise and skills

ANS: C

Programs are designed to fit funding priorities; thus, the areas supported by Congress determine the categories in which most effort is focused locally. A need in the community may be identified through community assessment, planning, and looking at needs in the community; however, without funding there will not be a way to create necessary programming. The expertise of the staff should not be the determining factor when deciding on programming in the community.

16. A nursing student during World War II would likely join which group?
- The US Public Health Service
 - The Marine Nurse Corps
 - The Frontier Nursing Service
 - The Cadet Nurse Corps

ANS: D

The *Bolton Act* of 1943 established the Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, which increased enrollment in schools of nursing at undergraduate and graduate levels. The U.S. Public Health Service began to use nurses during World War I to establish a public health nursing program for military outposts. The Marine Hospital Service was established well before World War II in 1798. The Frontier Nursing Service was established by Mary Breckinridge in 1925 and provided health care to the rural and often inaccessible populations in the Appalachian region of southeastern Kentucky.

17. A public health nurse is compiling information about how to promote early detection of breast cancer in women. Which document would most likely provide useful information about this topic?
- The Future of Public Health*
 - Healthy People 2020*
 - Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act*
 - Scope and Standards of Public Health Nursing Practice*

ANS: B

The *Healthy People 2020* documents propose a national strategy to significantly improve the health of Americans by preventing or delaying the onset of major chronic illnesses, injuries, and infectious diseases. The disarray resulting from reduced political support, financing, and effectiveness is described in *The Future of Public Health*. The *Scope and Standards of Public Health Nursing Practice* describes the processes of assessment, analysis, and planning that are carried out by the public health nurse. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act improved access to health insurance for Americans.