

**Inter-Professional Placement**  
**Example of a Case Study for Case Based Tutorials**

Helen is a 78 year old woman admitted to St. Mary's of the Lake Hospital after a 6 week stay in the Kingston General Hospital following surgery to remove a cancerous tumour of the colon. Although the cancer was successfully removed, two surgeries were required, as well as a temporary ileostomy, leaving Helen very weak and socially withdrawn. She is currently unable to transfer independently and requires a walker for mobility. During her stay in the general hospital, she was assessed by a neurologist who told her that she was in the early stages of Parkinson's disease. As well, she was seen by a cardiologist as she had a pacemaker inserted 15 years earlier and has had longstanding cardiac arrhythmia and angina. The cardiologist suggested that a valve replacement should be considered.

Helen is a widow and lives alone in a rural community 1 ½ hours from Kingston. She has 7 children, one of whom lives in Kingston – the rest live elsewhere in the province. She is an active member of her church at home and enjoys community volunteer work.

The geriatric team is meeting for the first time the day after admission to review Helen's chart and prepare to meet with her. The team on this particular morning consists of the charge nurse, a registered practical nurse, a physician, a social worker, an occupational therapist, a psychologist and a member of the spiritual care team.

1. As a \_\_\_\_\_, what 3 additional pieces of information would you like to know about Helen?
  
2. What is the most important issue you would like to address with Helen?
  
3. From the initial information provided above, would you recommend a referral to another profession? If yes, identify the profession and give your rationale.

*A. O'Riordan 2007, modified C. Donnelly, 2008*

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**Example Case Based Discussion Questions**

Share your answers with the rest of the team and remember that *there are no right or wrong answers – only the opportunity to learn and understand:*

- Discuss the similarities (areas of overlapping scopes of practice) and differences in responses. What surprised you? What confirmed your expectations?
  
- Would you prioritize differently now that you have information from everyone else?
  
- Create a scenario to demonstrate a collaborative team that is meeting to focus on the creation of an initial plan of care for Helen.
  
- Create a scenario to demonstrate a non-collaborative team that is meeting to create Helen's plan of care.
  
- What characteristics are evident for each of these teams?

Helen's team meets again 2 months later for a discharge planning conference. Helen has shown steady progress in her rehabilitation program and everyone agrees that she is ready for discharge, though there are differing opinions about where Helen should live. She has spent 2 weekends at her daughter's home in Kingston and is facing further surgery in the future to reverse the ileostomy. Helen is eager to return home though anxious about her ability to care for herself. How might the team approach this situation?

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