

Investigation 1.2B

1.2B: Medical Support Team Referrals

Physicians diagnose the problem causing the patient's complaint and decide which treatments will help most. Since doctors often don't have the time or equipment necessary to administer the treatment themselves, they often refer the patient to a member of the Medical Support Team. For example, if you have a sore throat with a cough and green phlegm, the doctor might write a prescription for antibiotic pills. Most physicians do not keep all the medicines they prescribe in their office; instead they send you to a member of the support team that knows all about prescription medicines, called a Pharmacist.

In this activity **YOU are the Family Practitioner**. When patients come to you with common problems where you know the answer but don't have what they need, you can refer them to the appropriate medical support team member. Your challenge here is to refer your patients to the appropriate support team member so they get the best results. **Select your answers from the support team members listed in Worksheet 1.2A**

The Medical Support Team

Directions: Write the medical support team member who might best assist the patient and the physician in each situation.

Patient 1 is an 11 year old female who fell on her right wrist playing soccer. She felt immediate pain in the area and was brought to you for evaluation and treatment. An x-ray showed a small fracture, or break, in one of the bones of her wrist. She was placed in a cast for six weeks and the cast removed. Another x-ray showed the fracture healing well. The girl complained that her wrist was stiff and weak. You wrote her a prescription to visit which support team member?

Patient 1: _____

Patient 2 is a 19 year old male who visits your office with a complaint of bad breath. You ask him if he has been to a dentist in the past year; his reply is : "No". When you look in his mouth you notice a small amount of redness (erythema) in his gums. You recommend a visit to a dentist as soon as possible. The Dentist examines his teeth and notes small pieces of rotten food between some of his teeth in addition to the erythema in his gum tissue. No cavities are found on the examination. Who would the Dentist refer this patient to for treatment?

Patient 2: _____

Patient 3 is a 63 year old female who visits your office with a complaint that her husband always accuses her of saying "What did you say?" "He thinks I can't hear him when he speaks; but I think he is just mumbling." You perform a simple hearing test and observe that her hearing appears to be affected in her left ear. You examine her for excess ear wax and find none. At this point you might consider referring this lady for further evaluation, but to whom?

Patient 3: _____

Patient 4 is a 62 year old male who has been your patient for many years. About four months ago he suffered a stroke which left him with great difficulty speaking. You would like him to get help so that he can regain some of his speaking skills. Which medical support team member would you refer him to?

Patient 4: _____

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Dr. _____

Patient 5 is a 73 year old male smoker who has been admitted to the hospital with difficulty breathing. Because he has smoked for over 50 years he has a previous diagnosis of emphysema. When you listen to the sounds coming from his lungs using your stethoscope you hear sounds consistent with pneumonia. Which medical support team member would you call on to help this patient breath more comfortably?

Patient 5: _____

Patient 6 is a 51 year old male who visits you complaining of intermittent chest pain, which usually goes away when he stops walking or being active. Right now his chest does not hurt. Your testing machine is broken, so you refer him to the hospital to have an EKG test. Which member of the hospital support team would most likely perform this test on your patient?

Patient 6: _____

Patient 7 is a 39 year old female who has recently returned from a trip to Africa. She complains of intermittent fever and chills, and a lack of appetite. You want to know more about the current diseases occurring in Africa. Which member of the support team could help find the information so you can know the most likely diseases to consider?

Patient 7: _____

Patient 8 is a 24 year old pregnant female wanting to attempt to determine the sex of her unborn baby. Which member of the support team could perform an ultrasound test that might provide that information?

Patient 8: _____