

## **SAFETY SCENARIO**

Utilize this safety scenario to examine student competency and knowledge in relation to maintaining a safe practice environment. For additional safety scenarios and information about patient safety please visit the following web page:

<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/patientsafety/criticalincident/sls.php>

### **Safety Scenario**

Arnold is a resident at a long term care facility. He has a history of choking and problematic self-feeding behaviour. On a busy morning, Arnold asked his nurse for a piece of toast. After Arnold's nurse returned with the toast, she was called out to answer the telephone. At the completion of the phone call, the nurse heard a banging noise and returned to find Arnold choking. Attempts to clear the obstruction by administering abdominal thrusts and suctioning were unsuccessful and Arnold died from respiratory obstruction.

The findings of the safety review were:

1. Previous assessment by a Speech Language Pathologist revealed that the resident had mild oral and moderate pharyngeal dysphagia. The expectation was that the resident would be supervised and oral intake monitored during meal periods.
2. There was a discrepancy between the diet listed on the written care plan, the computer-generated care plan, and the diet order. In addition, "choking" was not indicated on the written care plan.
3. A previous choking episode had been successfully resolved by the administration of abdominal thrusts.
4. Only one nurse was on duty during the incident because the two other nurses were taking their breaks.

Student Discussion Questions:

1. Review and analyze practices regarding food safety on the patient care unit, with particular emphasis on food storage and resident access to food. Suggest any changes that could contribute to patient safety and provide the rationale for such changes.
2. Review other practices that would reduce the occurrence of a similar situation in the future.
3. Consider how this situation could have been prevented.

Adapted from: Winnipeg Regional Health Authority (2010). Safety Learning Summary. Retrieved from

<http://www.wrha.mb.ca/healthinfo/patientsafety/criticalincident/sls.php>