

Case notes C – Influenza and deafness

WRITING SUB-TEST: **NURSING**
TIME ALLOWED: **READING TIME: 5 MINUTES**
 WRITING TIME: 40 MINUTES

Read the case notes below and complete the writing task which follows.

NOTES:

Davie Caines is a boy on the pediatric medical ward where you are the Charge Nurse.

Patient: Davie Caines **Address:** 3 Bigsby Lane, Hollerby
Height: 135 cm **Weight:** 29 kg
Date of birth: 14 April, 2009

Social history: Lives with parents and two siblings – brother 10 years old, sister 4 years old.
 Has two cats. Plays football twice a week.

Family history: Grandmother – type II diabetic

Admission date: **3 February, 2018**

Complaints: High fever, head and legs aching, sore throat. Sleeping a lot. Vomited multiple times in two days.

Past medical history: Mild asthma since 7 years old - two mild attacks in last year, treated successfully at home.
 Routine immunisations up to date

Medication: Uses Ventolin inhaler as needed for asthma rescue (rare).

Examination: Lethargic. Mucous membranes - dry. Skin - flushed ,dry. Temperature – 40°C.
 Respiratory rate 24/min (elevated). Chest clear.
 Cardiovascular – normal. Throat – pharynx red and inflamed.
 No skin rash.

Lab tests: Full blood count – white cell count ↑. ESR ↑.
 Urine – dark color, urea ↑. Blood glucose – normal.

Diagnosis: Influenza. Dehydration.

Management: I.V. fluids to rehydrate.
 Acetaminophen (Paractemol) 320mg q6h for fever and pain.
 Bed rest.

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Day 2: 4 February, 2017

Patient: Slight headache and sore throat. Still doesn't feel like eating.
No limb pain or vomiting. Passing urine normally.
"Can't hear the TV" like other children (on the ward).

Examination: Afebrile. Mucous membranes pink, moist. Passing water normally.
Skin – rehydrated. Chest, heart and abdomen – normal
Ears – no blockage or abnormality noted
Tuning fork test – decreased hearing both sides R > L.

Diagnosis: Influenza, possible hearing loss

Management: Regular meals. Oral fluids.
Request ENT consult as soon as possible. Monitor hearing.

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Day 4: 6 February, 2017

Patient : Feeling well; playing with other children on ward. Can hear TV much better.

Examination: Afebrile. Looks well, active and happy.
ENT assessment: (Tuning fork test – hearing much improved)

Diagnosis: Influenza, temporary hearing loss due to viral infection, managed conservatively (directed by ENT)

Management: Discharge today. Acetaminophen as needed for pain. Keep fluids ↑.
Cleared for return to school.
Observe for return of symptoms or inattention in class.
Private ENT follow-up next week.

WRITING TASK

Using the information given in the case notes, write a letter to the School Nurse, Hollerby Elementary School, requesting monitoring of relevant issues. This letter will accompany the child back to school.

In your answer:

- Expand the relevant notes into complete sentences.
- Do not use note form
- Use letter format
- The body of the letter should be approximately 180 – 200 words