
Meal Tray Problem

Look at the information about *Serving and Removing Trays* on the opposite page.



Nurse Aides in hospitals often bring meals on trays to patients.

Question

1

Before handing out trays, what information does the nurse aide need from the registered nurse?

Question

2

Highlight, underline or circle the words that explain what the nurse aide should do immediately after he or she has cleared the area where the patient will eat.

mark the reading selection

Question

3

Some patients receive special diets. How can the nurse aide be sure the right tray is served?

Question

4

A patient is unable to use one arm. How can the nurse aide make it easier for him to eat his meal?

SERVING AND REMOVING TRAYS

Procedure:

1. Clear the area where the patient will eat.
2. Check the tray for spilled liquids, missing items, or ordered food that is missing.
3. Compare the name on the tray to the name on patient's identification bracelet.
4. Place the tray so that it faces the patient, and remove the food covers.
5. Open milk cartons and cereal boxes, butter toast, cut up meat, and otherwise assist as necessary.

Rationale:

- Clutter may cause patient's belongings to fall or become misplaced.
- The tray should be complete, orderly and tidy so that eating can be enjoyable.
- Avoid serving the tray to wrong patient.
- Positioning the tray and removing the covers allows easy access for the patient.
- Not all patients find it easy to perform these tasks.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING

1. Be sure patient is properly positioned for eating.
2. Note foods the patient ate (was appetite good, were there certain foods he did not like?).
3. If a patient is to have his intake recorded, be sure to record same before removing tray.
4. Remove tray when patient is finished eating and leave the area tidy.
5. Always check with the registered nurse prior to serving. Some patients may be scheduled for surgery or tests.

Answers - Meal Tray Problem

- 1. Before handing out trays, what information does the nurse aide need from the registered nurse?*
The nurse aide needs to check if the patient is scheduled for tests or surgery.
- 2. Highlight, underline or circle the words that explain what to do after the nurse aide clears the area where the patient will eat.*
The second procedure should be marked 2. Check the tray for spilled . . .
- 3. Some patients receive special diets. How can the nurse aid be sure the right tray is served?*
The nurse aid must compare the name on the tray with the name on the patient's ID bracelet.
- 4. A patient is unable to use one arm. How can the nurse aide make it easier for him to eat his meal?*
The aide can open milk coartons, cereal boxes, etc. to make it easier for the patient (Procedure 5).

How are test items developed?

The stimulus documents for all TOWES problem sets are taken from actual workplaces during job analysis or occupational profiling. Test items are built around tasks which would naturally arise from using the document.

Workplace reading tasks tend to be 'reading to do' rather than 'reading to learn.' The documents which workers use for these tasks are often complex with information appearing in combined, nested and intersecting lists. For example, in the 'Meal Tray' problem, the test taker must be aware of the 'loosely defined' table structure which comprises the first half of the document. Understanding the information about 'Procedure' and 'Rationale' requires knowledge of how row and column information relate to each other in a combined list.

Some TOWES problem sets are presented on double-width paper which allows us to include test items that use more than one document of multi-page documents. These items force selective reading strategies and demand higher-level search skills. For an example, please see the 'Princess Cruises' problem set on pages 32-35 in this booklet.

SERVING AND REMOVING TRAYS

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5. Open milk cartons and cereal boxes, butter toast, cut up meat, and otherwise assist as necessary.

Rationale:

Q2 Locate the phrase 'clear the area.'

Scan down to find the task that comes 'after.'

Mark the passage.

enjoyable.

Avoid serving the tray to wrong patient.

Q3 Scan for 'right or wrong' in relation to 'tray or patient.'

Infer that serving the wrong patient is the same as serving the wrong tray.

Read the item in the left-hand column to find the procedure to prevent this.

NOTE THE FOLLOWING

Q1 Scan whole page for the search term 'registered nurse' (only one instance so no distractions from the correct answer).

Locate the information about tests and surgery which follows.

the area tidy.

5. Always check with the registered nurse prior to serving. Some patients may be scheduled for surgery or tests.

ly positioned for eating.

(was appetite good, were not like?).

s intake recorded, be sure to tray.

s finished eating and leave