Chapter 2: The History of Public and Community Health and Nursing

Test Bank

MULTIPLE CHOICE

1. What is an important reason to study nursing history?
   a. Fulfill state board of nursing requirements
   b. Help meet the necessary credit hours for graduation
   c. Meet accreditation requirements
   d. Understand the present and plan for tomorrow

ANS: D. One of the best ways to make plans for today and tomorrow is to look at the past to see what

2. Why is public health nursing appealing to many nurses?
   a. Its autonomy and independence
   b. Its focus on acute care and immediately visible outcomes
   c. The backup support of other health care professionals
   d. The rapport among the nursing staff

ANS: A. Inpatient acute care nurses (not public health nurses) focus on acute care with outcomes known fairly quickly. Unlike inpatient nursing, in which there are other health care professionals and staff with whom to interact, public health nursing is known for its autonomy and independence.

3. Which of the following accurately describes the first people to give care in hospitals?
   a. Feudal lords used servants with the goal of keeping their peons working
   b. Small towns hired men to care for their citizens.
   c. The military employed local men with the goal of enabling soldiers to keep fighting.
   d. Religious women in urban areas cared for the sick, poor, and neglected.

ANS: D. Most people were responsible for their own services, but religious convents and monasteries established hospitals to care for the elderly, disabled, sick, poor, and neglected.

4. How did the Industrial Revolution result in previous caregiving approaches, such as care by families, friends, and neighbors, becoming inadequate?
   a. Economic and political wars resulted in frequent death and injuries.
   b. Incredible plagues consistently and constantly swept the European continent.
   c. Migration and urbanization resulted in increased demand for care.
d. Caregivers could easily find other employment, so they demanded to be paid.

ANS: C. Care became inadequate because of the social changes in Europe, with great advances in transportation, communication, and other technologies. The increased mobility led to migration and urbanization, which in turn led to increased need for care.

5. What event most notably changed health care?
   a. Florence Nightingale created the discipline of nursing
   b. Nuns formed into Sisterhoods, who gave care.
   c. The order of Sisters of Mercy was established in Dublin.
   d. St. Vincent de Paul formed the Dames de Charite.

ANS: A. Many events led to improvements in care, but Florence Nightingale revolutionized health care.

6. Why did American citizens become interested in establishing government-controlled boards of health?
   a. They were afraid of infectious diseases such as yellow fever
   b. The government could force the poverty-stricken to accept care.
   c. Such boards could tax and thereby ensure adequate funds to pay for care.
   d. Such a system would allow for accurate records of births and deaths.

ANS: A. Threat of disease, especially yellow fever, led to public interest in establishing government-sponsored, or official, boards of health.

7. The Marine Hospital Service was established to protect seacoast cities from epidemics. This service evolved into which of the following?
   a. A role model for all later hospitals, beginning in larger cities such as Philadelphia
   b. The beginning of the Veterans Administration Medical System
   c. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
   d. The Public Health Service

ANS: D. The Marine Hospital Service, established in part because many communicable diseases entered through sea ports, became the Public Health Service.

8. What was the outcome of the Shattuck Report?
   a. It began efforts to control alcohol and drug abuse, as well as tobacco use.
   b. Environmental sanitation efforts became an immediate priority.
   c. It eventually resulted in guidelines for modern public health organization.
   d. Local and state governments immediately established boards of health.
It took 19 years for the first of Shattuck’s recommendations to be implemented, but his report was the first effort to create a modern public health organization.

9. Which nurse is famous for creating public health nursing in the United States?
   a. Florence Nightingale
   b. Frances Root
   c. Lillian Wald
   d. Mrs. Solomon Loeb

ANS: C. Lillian Wald established the Henry Street Settlement and later emerged as the established leader of public health nursing during its early decades.

10. What fact led Lillian Wald to suggest nurses practice in schools?
   a. Over 20% of children were absent from school each day.
   b. Nurses had to enter the schools to assess and care for the children of families receiving care in their homes.
   c. Nurses needed employment, and hospitals did not want to increase their nursing staff.
   d. It was less expensive to employ nurses in schools than physicians.

ANS: A. In New York City in 1902, more than 20% of children might be absent from school on a single day.

11. In what way did the National Organization for Public Health Nursing differ from all other nursing organizations?
   a. Allowed LPNs as well as RNs to join the organization
   b. Encouraged nurses who were not public health nurses to join
   c. Included both nurses and their lay supporters
   d. Used lottery methods to choose its leaders and officers

ANS: C. The NOPHN, unlike other professional nursing organizations, included both nurses and their lay supporters. Lay supporters were a source of funding and political support.

12. Why were nurses so unprepared for public health nursing in the early twentieth century?
   a. Community health nursing had not yet been created as a field.
   b. No one would teach the nurses how to engage in public health activities.
   c. Nightingale’s textbook did not include content on public health nursing.
   d. Nurses were educated in diploma schools, which focused on hospital nursing.

ANS: D. Nursing school courses taught in diploma schools of nursing emphasized hospital care of patients; thus nurses were unprepared for home visiting.

13. What was the major obstacle to expanding public health nursing during the epidemics and the war efforts in the early twentieth century?
   a. Adequate funds were not available.
   b. The American Red Cross was meeting the public health needs at the time.
   c. Women did not want careers; they wanted to remain homemakers.
d. Women were in the military helping in the cause to win WWI.

ANS: A

A lack of adequate funds was the major obstacle to extending nursing services in the community. Wealthy and middle-class supporters were relied on for contributions.

14. Why did the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company establish and retain for several years the first community nursing health program for policyholders?

a. Creating such a service was the morally correct thing to do.

b. Employing nurses directly was less expensive than paying taxes to the city for the same purpose.

c. Having the company’s nurses make home visits increased worker morale.

d. Having public health nurses visit policyholders and their families led to a decline in policyholder deaths, thus lowering costs for the insurance company.

ANS: D Metropolitan Life saw an average decline of 7% in the mortality rate of policyholders and almost a 20% decline in the deaths of children. The insurance company attributed this improvement and the associated reduced costs to the visiting nurses.

15. What effect did the passage of the Social Security Act have on nurses?

a. Funding was made available for nurses to learn public health.

b. Funds were available for expanding hospitals (size of hospital and number of beds).


d. More elderly persons demanded home health care from nurses.

ANS: A The Social Security Act of 1935 tried to overcome the national setbacks of the Depression. Title VI of this act provided funding to expand opportunities for health protection and promotion through education and employment of public health nurses.

16. What is the most crucial factor that determines which programs community agencies emphasize?

a. Comprehensive assessment and planning done in the community

b. Documented needs of the local community

c. Federal funding for priority diseases or groups

d. Nursing staff’s expertise and skills

ANS: C Programs are designed to fit funding priorities—thus the areas supported by Congress determine the categories in which most effort is focused locally.

17. During World War II incredible numbers of nurses volunteered for the war effort, resulting in fewer nurses in the United States. How did hospitals and visiting nurse agencies cope with the shortage?

a. Closed many hospital units due to lack of staff

b. Increased benefits to nurses who would renew their employment contracts

c. Offered high salaries and bonuses to nurses who accepted employment
Used nurse’s aides and other nonprofessionals to give care

ANS: Without professional nurses, nonnursing personnel gave much of the care, including more than 215,000 certified volunteer nurse’s aides. Families were also forced to assume more responsibility for care of their family members.

MULTIPLE RESPONSE
1. How did Florence Nightingale help bring about community health nursing? Select all that apply.
   a. She convinced socially prominent wealthy women to volunteer to give care.
   b. She focused on all soldiers and their environment.
   c. She interacted with each individual person, assessing his or her needs and acting to meet those needs.
   d. She kept careful records on what was done and what were the results.
   e. She promoted health using nutrition, rest, and hygienic measures.
   f. She stressed the importance of keeping the ill soldiers together so they could support each other emotionally.

ANS: B, D, E Nightingale progressively improved the soldiers’ health using a population-based approach that improved both environmental conditions and nursing care. Using simple epidemiology measures, she documented a decreased mortality rate to demonstrate the outcomes. Nightingale thought that nursing should promote health and prevent illness, and she emphasized proper nutrition, rest, sanitation, and hygiene.

2. The Maternity and Infancy Act provided funds for maternal and child health divisions in state health departments and clearly saved many lives. Why was the program ended? Select all that apply.
   a. All newborns were essentially healthy following education to mothers.
   b. Most states didn’t feel a need for such a program in their state.
   c. States disagreed with the federal government concerning the amount of matching funds to be contributed by the states.
   d. The AMA felt the federal government was encroaching on medical practice.
   e. The AMA charged that the program was too much like socialized medicine.
   f. There were too few trained nurses to staff all the programs.

ANS: D, E The American Medical Association (AMA) had concerns that the legislation gave too much power to the federal government and too closely resembled socialized medicine.

3. For what activities is Mary Breckinridge remembered? Select all that apply.
   a. She created the first home nursing program in the Western states.
   b. She established the Frontier Nursing Service.
c. She increased nursing’s efforts to care for the urban poor.
d. She introduced the first nurse-midwives in the United States.
e. She obtained the initial donations allowing the first efforts in home health care outside major cities.
f. She was the first nurse employee of the Vermont Marble Company, thereby becoming the first occupational health nurse.

ANS: B, D

Mary Breckinridge established the Frontier Nursing Service and introduced the first nurse-midwives into the United States. Lillian Wald obtained the initial donations allowing the first efforts in home health care outside major cities. Ada Mayo Stewart was the first nurse employee of the Vermont Marble Company, thereby becoming the first occupational health nurse.

4. How did nursing education change in the 1950s? Select all that apply.

a. Baccalaureate nursing programs typically included public health nursing concepts.
b. Diploma schools of nursing continued to expand their student numbers.
c. Junior and community colleges began offering nursing programs.
d. Nurses were strongly encouraged to have a scientific basis for their practice.
e. Research became a required course in all nursing programs.
f. The need for more education (more credits) to complete a nursing major became obvious.

ANS: A, C

In the 1950s, public health nursing became a required part of most baccalaureate nursing education programs. In 1952, nursing education programs began in junior and community colleges.

5. How did health care and its delivery change during the 1980s? Select all that apply.

a. Funding to public health increased as funding for acute hospital care decreased.
b. Laws began to be passed that discouraged the use of alcohol, drugs, and tobacco.
c. Nurse practitioners were increasingly used to provide care.
d. Public health programs suffered reduced political support, financing, and effectiveness.
e. The National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR) was established.
f. Use of health maintenance organizations was encouraged.

ANS: B, C, D, E, F

During the 1980s funding began to shift to meet the costs of acute hospital care, medical procedures, and institutional long-term care. The use of health maintenance organizations was encouraged, and the use of nurse practitioners increased. Consumer and professional advocacy groups urged the passage of laws to prohibit unhealthy practices such as smoking and driving under the influence of alcohol. By the late 1980s, public health had declined in political support, financing, and effectiveness. After a lengthy political battle, the National Center for Nursing Research (NCNR) was established in 1985.