Chapter 1

Key Terms

The Past, Present, and Future

Advocate

Culture

Empowerment

Morbidity

Obstetrician

Pediatrics

puerperium

Maternity Nursing

Care given by a nurse

To the expectant family

- Before
- During
- Following birth

Family-Centered Care

Core of planning and implementing health care

Recognizes the strength and integrity of the family unit

The family as caregivers and decision-makers

Integral part of both obstetric and pediatric nursing

Middle Ages and Children

The concept of childhood did not exist
• Infancy lasted until around age 7
• Had to assimilate into adult world
• Did not attend school

• 19th Century Discoveries

• Karl Credé (1819-1892)
  — Recommended instillation of silver nitrate into newborn’s eyes to prevent blindness from gonorrhea

• 19th Century Discoveries (cont.)

• Ignaz Semmelweis (1818-1865)
  — Discovered relationship between puerperal fever and examinations by physicians and students fresh from the cadaver labs
  — Found puerperal fever was a form of sepsis; was contagious and transmitted through unwashed hands

• 19th Century Discoveries (cont.)

• Louis Pasteur (1822-1895)
  — Confirmed puerperal fever caused by bacteria
  — Spread by improper handwashing and contact with contaminated objects

• Joseph Lister (1827-1912)
  — Experimented with chemical means to prevent infection
  — Revolutionized surgical practice
    • Introduced concept of antiseptic surgery

• The 1900s

• Early in the century, the majority of births were in the home
• Hospitals began to develop training programs for nurses
• By the 1950s, hospital practice in obstetrics was well-established
• By 1960, more than 90% of births in the U.S. were in hospitals
• The Birth Process in the 1960s
  • Fathers waited outside of the delivery room
  • Mothers were placed in a “twilight sleep” and had little involvement in the delivery process
  • The infant was kept from parents for hours after birth, which delayed the parent-infant bonding process
• Culture
  • Strong influence on the standards of child care
    — Primitive tribes were nomads
    — Strong survived and stayed with the tribe
    — Weak were left behind to die
• As time progressed, children were valued more on what they could produce
• Today, as in the past, culture affects how a family perceives health and illness
• Family Medical Leave Act (FMLA)
  • Became law in 1993
  • Allows for employees to take up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave to care for a newborn or family member
  • Employee cannot lose benefits or pay status if they take FMLA
• HIPAA (cont.)
  — Health care personnel are expected to maintain strict confidentiality
Regulations mandate that the names and personal information of patients be kept in a secure and private place.

- The Children’s Bureau
- Established by Lillian Wald in 1912
- Focused attention on problems of infant mortality
- Was followed by maternal mortality
- Led to birth registration in all states
- In the 1930s, led to development of hot lunch programs in the schools
- Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938
- Established a general minimum working age
  - 16 years for non-hazardous jobs
  - 18 years for hazardous jobs
- White House Conferences
- First one in 1909, Theodore Roosevelt was president
- Continues to be held every 10 years
- 1930—Children’s Charter was established
- 1980—involves all states in an effort to see what problems families were facing in various parts of the country
- Public Health Department
- Responsible for disease prevention and control
  - Community
  - Statewide
Nationally

- Includes laws about licensing of health care providers (i.e., physicians and pharmacists)

Public Health Department (cont.)

- Pure Food and Drug Act
  - Controls medicines, poisons, and the purity of food

Programs include

- Disaster relief
- Care and rehabilitation of handicapped children
- Foster child care
- Protective services for abused or neglected children

Reportable Situations

- Nurse has legal responsibility to report certain diseases or conditions to local public health authorities
  - An illness that poses a health hazard to the public
- Suspected child abuse or suicidal behavior must be reported immediately to protect the child from further harm

The Present: Maternity Care

- Family involvement during pregnancy and birth
  - Necessary for bonding and support
- Three separate sections of the maternity unit
  - Labor-delivery
  - Postpartum
  - Newborn nursery
• Some facilities have merged all three areas into one

• Birthing Centers

• Provide comprehensive care
  — Antepartum
  — Labor-delivery
  — Postpartum
  — Mothers’ classes
  — Lactation classes
  — Follow-up family planning

• Midwives

• First school of nurse-midwifery
  — Opened in New York City, 1932

• Certified Nurse-Midwife (CNM)
  — Registered nurse
  — Graduate from an accredited midwife program
  — National certification
  — Provides comprehensive prenatal and postnatal care
  — Attends uncomplicated deliveries

• Health Care Delivery Systems

• Cost-containment a driver for change

• Diagnosis-related groups (DRGs): determine payment for a hospital stay based on the diagnosis
• Push for early discharge
• Established need for Nurse Case Managers and Utilization Review Nurses
• Documentation
• It is the LEGAL responsibility of the nurse
• Facilities differ on the type of charting methods
  — Paper
  — Computerized
• Regardless of method, if you did not document the care you provided, medicolegally, you did not do it!