

SAQ 9

There have been a number of incidents in your emergency department Short Stay Unit where patients have unexpectedly deteriorated during their stay.

a. What is the role of a Short Stay Unit? (2 Marks)

To manage Emergency Medicine patients who would benefit from extended treatment and observation but have an expected length of stay of less than 24 hours.

Taken from Cameron Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine 3rd Edition Section 27.2

1 Mark for providing extended care for Emergency Medicine patients

1 Mark for acknowledging an expected length of stay of 24 hour or less

b. How would you develop a solution to this problem ? (4 Marks)

Gather information - 1 Mark

Develop solution plan - 1 Mark

Implement plan - 1 Mark

Audit / Re-collect data - 1 Mark

Note exact wording not essential but plan must include aspects of each of these domains to score maximum marks

c. You have been asked to develop a set of exclusion criteria for your Short Stay Unit. Please list your exclusion criteria? (8 Marks)

1/2 Mark for each exclusion criteria to maximum of 4 marks.

Patients who should be admitted to in-patient wards - complex medical or surgical problems

Multiple problems

Elderly patient

Paediatric patients

Patients without clear management plan / diagnosis

Patients with intensive nursing requirements

Risk to staff patients - psychotic, violent, forensic history

Taken from Cameron Textbook of Adult Emergency Medicine 3rd Edition Section 26.6