

S.K., a 51-year-old roofer, was admitted to the hospital 3 days ago after falling 15 feet from a roof. He sustained bilateral fractured wrists and an open fracture of the left tibia and fibula. He was taken to surgery for open reduction and internal fixation (ORIF) of all his fractures. He is recovering on your orthopedic unit. You have instructions to begin getting him out of bed and into the chair today. When you enter the room to get S.K. into the chair, you notice that he is very agitated and dyspneic and says to you, “My chest hurts real bad. I can’t breathe.”

1. Identify five possible reasons for S.K.’s symptoms.

You auscultate S.K.’s breath sounds. You find that they are diminished in the left lower lobe (LLL). S.K. is diaphoretic and tachypneic and has circumoral cyanosis. His apical pulse is irregular and 110 bpm.

2. List in order of priority three actions you should take next.

The physician orders the following: ABGs, chest x-ray (CXR), ECG, and V/Q ventilation/perfusion lung scan. The blood gas results come back as follows (these results reflect values at sea level): pH 7.47, PaCO₂ 33.6 mm Hg, PaO₂ 52 mm Hg, HCO₃ 24.2 mmol/L, BE -3, SaO₂ 83%, and A-a (alveolar-arterial oxygen gradient) gradient 32 mm Hg. **(See Article – ABG’s are Childs Play)**

What is your interpretation of the blood gases? Give your rationale.

3. You walk in the room to check on S. K. and find him unresponsive to verbal/physical stimuli. You shake and shout his name, palpate for a radial and carotid pulse but find no pulses. What is your first nursing action?

4. Who is responsible to bring the crash cart and patient chart?

Code Team Worksheet (continued)

5. Outline the responsibilities of the **primary nurse** assigned to S.K.

6. Identify all the members of the Code Team and their job responsibilities.

7. What Code Team member will identify the cardiac rhythms and manage the defibrillator?

8. Who are the Team Leaders of a Code Blue?

9. What Code Team member is responsible for completing the Code Blue form?

10. Who is responsible to check if a resuscitator mask is available in the patient room?

11. What department is responsible to replace the resuscitator mask in room of S.K?