

# Home Visit Scenarios for Discussion

## WHAT WOULD YOU DO?

**Scenario 1** – You have been visiting a patient for a couple of weeks. Most time the patient sleeps through your visit so you bring a book and read while he sleeps. When you arrive on this day the kitchen is brimming with dirty dishes, the kitchen table is messy with breakfast cereal bowls, newspapers, mail, etc. The caregiver dashes out to her appointment as soon as you arrive. While the patient sleeps you do the dishes, clean up the items on the table and neatly stack them. When the caregiver returns, she's furious.

**Scenario 2** – You've been visiting a family for some time, and they've asked you to come to a birthday party for the patient. Do you accept the invitation or not?

**Scenario 3** – You've heard about the caregiver's beautiful grandchildren on previous visits. This time when you visit the family, the grandchildren happen to be visiting from out of state. Since the patient is bedbound the caregiver asks, "Would you mind watching the kids (ages 6 and 10) while we go out to lunch? They're just going to be watching a movie they shouldn't be any trouble."

**Scenario 4** - You learn from your volunteer coordinator that your patient loves homemade applesauce. You happened to make some that weekend, so you brought a jar over to the family when you arrive.

**Scenario 5** – Each time you visit this patient the caregiver usually takes the opportunity of your being there to clean the house, do laundry, and sometimes you sit at the kitchen table and spend a few hours listening to the caregiver concerns.

**Scenario 6** – While the caregiver was out the patient told you that they are tired of being sick and they just want this all to end. The patient is aware that their loved ones are struggling with their death, but he just wants to get this over with. Do you say anything to the caregiver?

**Scenario 7** – Your adult daughter who is a nurse and works for another hospice in another state is visiting. You forgot that you have a planned visit with your assigned family. Do you bring the daughter with you?

**Scenario 8** – As you are leaving the caregiver asks you to drop off a check to the bank. He forgot to do it while he was out and if the money doesn't get into the bank the check he just wrote will bounce.

**Scenario 9** – The caregiver understands that the volunteers do not provide direct care. While you're there the patient gets out of her chair, and you lend her an elbow to the kitchen where she wants to have her breakfast. You help her sit down in the chair.

**Scenario 10** – You arrive at the patient's home and knock on the door. You hear a faint voice of the patient asking who it is. You've been at the home before, and the patient is not able to walk very far, certainly not far enough to open the door. The patient is alone.



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