Case Study
Mrs. Sweeney
Renal/Incontinence

70 year old white female that lives alone in a first floor apartment. She has a history of cerebral vascular accident (CVA) ten months ago with right-sided weakness, urinary incontinence and impaired mobility. Right-sided weakness and ambulates with a walker.

Mrs. Sweeney is a 70 year old woman who had a stroke less than a year ago. Mrs. Sweeney is alert and oriented. She feels the sensation to void, but right-sided weakness prevents her from always being able to get to the bathroom in time. For this reason, she wears incontinence undergarments. Mrs. Sweeney’s daughter, Adele, stops by twice each day to check on Mrs. Sweeney and prepare meals for her. There are times when Mrs. Sweeney is incontinent and remains in a wet undergarment until Adele comes to visit.

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While assisting Mrs. Sweeney in the bathroom, Adele notices that Mrs. Sweeney’s coccyx and perineum area are reddened and excoriated. Adele learns that Mrs. Sweeney sometimes sits in a wet undergarment until she arrives. Mrs. Sweeney explains, “I know I am wet. It is just easier to wait for you to get here than to try and change the undergarment myself.” Adele is concerned. She calls a local visiting nurses association to get some information about how to manage Mrs. Sweeney’s incontinence and asks if there is any skin therapy to reduce the redness.

Questions:
1. Describe at least 3 factors that affect voiding and may result in incontinence in an adult
2. What is incontinence? Describe the characteristics of each of the six types of urinary incontinence: stress, reflex, urge, functional, total (chronic incontinence), and transient (acute incontinence).
3. Which type of incontinence does Mrs. Sweeney have and what data support the diagnosis?
4. Mrs. Sweeney tells the, “I try to limit the amount of fluid I drink to one or two small glasses a day so that I do not have to go to the bathroom as much.” What teaching should the nurse provide in response to Mrs. Sweeney’s comment?
5. Explain at least 3 factors that are contributing to Mrs. Sweeney’s impaired skin integrity.
6. What will the visiting nurse most likely tell Mrs. Sweeney and Adele to consider in an effort to minimize Mrs. Sweeney’s incontinent episodes?
7. What are 3 suggestions the visiting nurse will include while teaching Adele to care for Mrs. Sweeney’s skin?
8. List 5 nursing diagnoses that are appropriate for Mrs. Sweeney.