Case Study
Community Health
Rita Jenkins, School Nurse

Rita is the school nurse for a rural school district that has two elementary schools, one junior high school, and one high school. She spends one day per week at each of the school where head lice is becoming more and more prevalent. She is scheduled to do “head checks” in all of the classrooms.

1. What procedure should she use to check children?
2. If lice or nits are found, what should she do?
3. How might she educate students and families about identifying, preventing, and treating lice?

The next day Rita is working at the other elementary school when Mrs. Borden, a teacher for multi-handicapped children, approaches her to discuss a child in her class who has been diagnosed with hepatitis A. Even though the child is no longer at school, Mrs. Borden is afraid that she and the other children might be at risk, and she wants Rita to help and to give her advice and information on the disease.

4. What should Rita tell Mrs. Borden about Hepatitis A?
5. What Interventions should occur since Hepatitis A has been diagnosed in the school?

Rita is scheduled to give an in service to the high school teachers on how to care for an epileptic child experiencing a seizure. This request for the in service occurred as a result of one of the teachers witnessing a girl having a grand mal tonic clonic seizure in the cafeteria because of her epilepsy.

6. What topics should Rita cover in her in service?
7. Discuss the responsibilities and challenges of school nursing. What personal and professional characteristics must the school nurse demonstrate in order to work in this area of nursing?