

Role: Bedside nurse (RN)

You are a PICU nurse on a 1:1 assignment for a 5-year-old boy. He has a progressive genetic disease and essentially is globally developmentally delayed, “trach’d,” “g-tube’d,” ventilator dependent, has like 8 chronic meds per day... He is currently admitted with aspiration pneumonia and is on maximum ventilator settings.

His parent is very “hands-on”, to put it nicely. Essentially, they have been very demanding and bossing you around. Also, at one point you noticed them administer some medication into his gastrostomy tube without telling you, and they are suctioning him all the time, even though you told them they shouldn’t suction so frequently and he’s starting to have blood secretions. They are making it very hard for you to care for him, and you’ve heard they have a knack for “firing” nurses in the past.

For this exercise, you are part of a care conference with the patient’s parent, the PICU attending, a consultant expert in his genetic disease, and the social worker. The attending will lead the care conference, but you will interject trying to inform parents that while they’re in the PICU they need to refrain from doing things like administering medications into the gastrostomy tube without your knowledge and suctioning too frequently.