Admission to Hospital

Practise welcoming a patient, taking an admission history and explaining an initial examination. Use clear, polite English and check that the patient understands.

1 Start a conversation

Discuss in pairs:
1 What can make a patient anxious on admission?
2 What can a nurse do to help?
3 What information do nurses need from a new patient?

2 Match the vocabulary

Write the correct letter next to each term.

1 admission ___ 2 ward ___ 3 referral letter ___ 4 medical history ___
5 allergy ___ 6 next of kin ___ 7 belongings ___ 8 consent ___

A personal possessions
B permission for an examination or procedure
C a hospital unit where patients receive care
D information about previous illnesses and treatment
E the process of accepting a patient into hospital care
F a relative or person named as the patient's closest contact
G a letter asking another healthcare professional to assess or treat a patient
H an immune reaction to a substance that is usually harmless

3 Read about admission

A planned admission is arranged in advance. An emergency admission is unplanned and follows an urgent health problem. An inpatient stays overnight; a day patient receives care without an overnight stay. Some patients have an assessment before a planned admission. Staff ask about their health, medical history and support at home.

On arrival, the nurse introduces themselves, checks the patient's identity and explains the admission process. The admission interview includes the reason for admission, current symptoms, medicines (including non-prescription and herbal products) and allergies. The nurse also asks about mobility, communication needs and help with daily activities. The initial assessment may include observations such as temperature, pulse, breathing rate and blood pressure. A physical examination and further tests depend on the patient's needs. Staff explain what they are going to do, seek consent and protect the patient's privacy.

Write T or F. Correct the false statements orally.
1 A planned admission is arranged in advance. ___
2 A day patient always stays overnight. ___
3 Staff only need to know about prescription medicines. ___
4 Every patient needs exactly the same tests. ___
5 Staff should explain an examination before it begins. ___