Andrea: Welcome to our Question Dissection podcast. Sue, our review course instructor, will be dissecting this week's NCLEX style question, posted every Monday on learningext.com and Facebook. These questions come straight from our NCLEX RN review course.

The Question Dissection for February 4 is:
The charge nurse on a cardiac step-down unit makes assignments for the team that consists of a registered nurse (RN), a licensed practical nurse (LPN), and an unlicensed assistive personnel (UAP). Which client should be assigned to the LPN?

1. A 49 year-old diagnosed with a new onset atrial fibrillation with a rapid ventricular response
2. A 65 year-old scheduled for discharge after angioplasty and a stent placement
3. A 35 year-old who is 12 hours post cardiac catheterization
4. A 58 year-old with hypertension, diagnosed with suspected angina

Let’s begin the Question Dissection.

Sue: To answer this question you need to understand the role of the licensed practical nurse or LPN and the concept of delegation.
The RN can delegate the care of a client to the LPN as long as the client’s care is not too complex or the client’s condition is stable and there’s a low likelihood of an emergency.

It’s also important to know that only the RN can teach; the LPN can reinforce the plan of care and information already taught by the RN. So, as you look at the answer options, you will need to identify the client who is the most stable and/or who doesn’t need any teaching.

The client with new onset atrial fibrillation is not stable and should not be assigned to the LPN. The client who is ready for discharge will need discharge teaching and we know that this cannot be done by the LPN.

You are now left with the client who underwent a cardiac catheterization 12 hours ago and another client who is hypertensive with suspected angina.

Even 12 hours after the cardiac catheterization procedure, complications can occur. Besides, cardiac catheterization is an invasive procedure. So the most stable client is the one who is hypertensive. This client can be assigned to the LPN.

Andrea: Thanks so much for talking with us today Sue. For all you listening, remember to catch our next podcast February 18th.

[Outro Music]