PEDIATRIC CASE STUDY #3: ASTHMA

SITUATION:
Laura, age 9 years, is brought to the hospital ER by her mother. Laura is in acute respiratory distress. Her mother informs the nurse that Laura has had multiple hospital admissions related to asthma. Laura does not respond to the usual treatment while she is in the ER. She is admitted to the pediatric unit with a diagnosis of acute asthma.

1. List the clinical manifestations of asthma that Laura might exhibit.

2. The nurse starts an IV to provide fluids and medications for Laura. Aminophylline is added to the IV. What are common side effects Laura might experience with the use of this drug? What nursing measures are implemented with the use of aminophylline?

3. The nurse review asthma triggers with Laura and her mother. List factors that might precipitate an asthma attack.

4. Laura has been using a Peak Flowmeter to help monitor her breathing capacity. She also uses a metered-dose inhaler. What information does Laura provide that indicates proper use of these treatment modalities?

5. The nurse’s first-priority nursing diagnosis is: impaired gas exchange related to narrowing of the bronchial lumen by spasm, edema, and secretions. What goal will the nurse establish and what nursing interventions will the nurse utilize to meet this goal?

6. List four other nursing diagnoses which would be appropriate for Laura while she is hospitalized.

7. Make a list of items to be included in a teaching plan to provide for self-management of asthma.