Clinical Application Worksheet 3

1) Using the following case study, or develop one of your own, contrast the application of two alternative theories to the management of the clinical problem (see grading criteria). Behavioral, cognitive, systems or interpersonal theories may be used.

Case study

Daniel Brant is a 63 y.o. Native American who has developed cellulitis at his graft donor site following coronary bypass artery grafting. The incision is open and draining, and the surgeon expects he will continue to need daily dressing changes for at least four weeks. Mr. Brant was transferred from an outlying community hospital for his surgery. His wife Rebecca accompanied him on the transfer and has been staying in hospital-provided relative housing when she is not at Mr. Brant's bedside. The Brants live 95 miles away in a rural area that is not covered by home health services. Mr. Brant has limited use of his hands because of arthritis.

Terry Jefferson, RN, has been caring for Mr. Brant. Jefferson has observed that the Brants are very attentive to each other. Mrs. Brant has been assisting Mr. Brant with daily activities, including feeding, shaving, bathing and toileting. Mr. Brant expresses some impatience about the amount of help he currently needs, but generally accepts Mrs. Brant's help with appreciation. When Mrs. Brant is elsewhere, Mr. Brant seems uneasy and greets her eagerly on her return. Mrs. Brant is rarely absent from the bedside, except during the daily dressing changes of Mr. Brant's graft donor site. This procedure is moderately painful for Mr. Brant, and Jefferson has observed that Mrs. Brant makes some excuse to leave as soon as the nurse prepares to begin the procedure. As the process of discharge planning progresses, Mrs. Brant is identified as her husband's primary caregiver. Indeed, given their remote location, there do not appear to be any other options.

When Jefferson proposes that Mrs. Brant begin to learn to perform the dressing change technique, neither Mr. nor Mrs. Brant is receptive. Mrs. Brant states that "I don't want to even look at it (the wound)." Mr. Brant states "she's already doing too much for me." From conversation with Mr. and Mrs. Brant, Jefferson obtains this information: As a high school student, Mrs. Brant was enrolled in a vocational nursing assistant program because of poor grades on academic subjects. She hated the program and felt that her clinical instructors were "looking for every little mistake". After all these years, there is still emotion in her recollection of being unable to bathe her elderly patients without causing them pain. She dropped out of the program to marry Mr. Brant. Mrs. Brant states, "I just can't learn to do nursing things. I'm no good at that." Mr. Brant mutters about "hospitals that kick you out before you're ready to go."
Grading Criteria

In a two page (typed, double-spaced) paper, answer the following questions for each approach chosen.

How would the chosen approach guide your assessment? What information would you seek? (10 points, each approach)

Using the approach, how would you define the problem? (5 points, each approach)

Using the approach, what would your goal be? (5 points, each approach)

Using the approach, how would you manage the problem? (5 points, each approach)

Using the approach, how would you evaluate your management? (5 points, each approach)

How consistent are the concepts of the theory with the clinical problem? (5 points, each approach)

How congruent is the theoretical approach with the clinical problem? (10 points, each approach)

Grammar and spelling (10 points)

Paper may be submitted in hard copy or sent as an e-mail attachment to the instructor.
Unsatisfactory papers must be rewritten.