**Chapter Exercises**

**PART II: ADVANCED APPROACHES AND EMERGING TRENDS**

**CHAPTER 12: Pediatric Healthcare Social Work Practice**

1. You are the social worker in an outpatient clinic located in a school-based health center. The nurse practitioner you work with has just informed you that a 14-year-old in the 8th grade has a positive pregnancy test. The patient is crying and does not want to tell her parents. You have been consulted to meet with the student to provide emotional support and help her understand the options.

• Look up the laws regarding adolescent healthcare rights in your state. What confidentiality laws apply to pregnancy? Does she have the right to refuse to tell her parents?

• What options would you offer this patient? If you offer the option of pregnancy termination would she be able to have the procedure without parental consent?

• What actions would you recommend to her?

• What are your personal feelings about this situation?

2. Read the following scenarios and consider your role as the social worker on the interdisciplinary medical team:

• Max is a previously active and healthy 6-year-old boy who sustained a complex femoral fracture after falling out of a tree while playing at his grandparent’s farm. His injury required surgery to fix the bone and he must wear a spica cast for 6 weeks. The spica cast is a rigid plaster cast that covers both Max’s thighs and covers his stomach up to his chest. The cast prevents Max from being able to sit upright, walk, or use the bathroom for the next six weeks. Max will require special car restraints, a wheelchair, and be required to wear diapers.

• Shante is an 8-month-old infant who was just diagnosed with spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) Type 2 after her parents and pediatrician noticed that she was not meeting her developmental milestones. SMA is a degenerative and incurable genetic disorder that manifests in general muscle loss and mobility impairment over time. Shante’s parents were told that she may never be able to sit without assistance, stand, or walk. The physicians also told her parents that over time, some babies with this disease become unable to breathe and require ventilation support.

i. Discuss possible psychosocial implications of each scenario, for the patients and family members.

ii. What questions from *Table 12.1* do you regard as particularly crucial in a comprehensive psychosocial assessment?

iii. What do you believe are important components of ongoing care in each scenario?