

Nursing 451: Smith Family Case Study

The Smith Family consists of John age 45; Mary age 44; and their children Renee age 15; Jared age 12; Leona age 11; and Tim age 8. This is the second marriage for Mary, who has two older children, Monique Slater, who is 28 y/o and pregnant and Jean, who is 26 years old and living with her own two children. The Smith family lives in Grand Rapids in the Heartside neighborhood. They are living in their second apartment within the last year and a half. The landlord has recently raised the rent by \$200.00 a month. The Smiths thought he was trying to force them out of the apartment but they agreed to pay the increased rent. They just received an eviction notice that will take effect in 30 days. John is employed as a maintenance man in a local bar. He makes enough money to pay the rent, utilities, and some food. The family uses the local food pantry to supplement monthly food supply. The refrigerator in the apartment is broken so they have limited fresh food available. The family has no phone. John's employer has provided him with a pager. He is able to return phone calls within 3 hours. Because the family's income is above the declared poverty level the family does not qualify for additional social services. The children have medical and dental coverage with Medicaid. John and Mary do not qualify for health coverage. Recently John accessed healthcare through a community clinic. Although he was told there would be no cost for the visit, a bill was received for \$800.00. Because he is unable to pay the bill, a collection process was initiated. The family cares for each other but there is disorganization in the home. Interpersonal relationships are strained between the father and children.

Mr. and Mrs. Smith married when John was 30 and Mary was 29. Mary dropped out of high school after becoming pregnant before her first marriage. Mary smokes 1.5 ppd. She appears undernourished and is missing her front teeth. Mary refuses to obtain health care for herself until all her children's health needs are addressed. She spends most of her day supervising the children and thinks the children are doing quite well. In the evening Mary babysits her grandchildren while the parents are working. John graduated from high school. He is a committed father to his family. The financial concerns place a great deal of stress on John. He is concerned he will not remain healthy in order to provide for his family. He takes an active role in trying to find health coverage and dental care for his wife and children.

All the children are up to date in their immunizations. While they have not been seen by a healthcare provider for over a year all appear to be in good health. It has been several years since the children have had dental checkups. The children have community care HMO Medicaid. Their assigned provider is in Jenison. The family has no method of transportation and transportation has not been provided. There are currently no openings for dental care in the local area. John has requested a change of Medicaid managed care. In two months the children will be covered by Priority Managed Care and can receive healthcare from the Cherry Street Clinic.

Renee is attending HS. She appears sad and tends to isolate herself within the family. She has no outside interests or activities. Most of her spare time is spent helping with home responsibilities. She just became aware she is pregnant with her first child. Jared is struggling in school. He may be held back this year. Leona is doing well in school and spends most of her time playing with her younger brother. Tim was born with a cleft lip that was surgically repaired at 3 months of age. The children have had several episodes of head lice and have had to remain home during breakouts several times this year.