## Nursing Process Focus: Patients Receiving Cefotaxime (Claforan)

### Assessment

Prior to administration
- Obtain complete health history including allergies, drug history and possible drug interactions.
- Assess for presence of local or systemic infection.
- Obtain vital signs.
- Obtain history of drug allergies.

### Potential Nursing Diagnoses

- Risk for Injury (allergic reaction), related to adverse reaction to drug
- Risk for Infection (superinfection), related to effects of drug therapy
- Risk for Deficient Fluid Volume, related to effects of drug on GI system
- Diarrhea, related to side effects of drug

### Planning: Patient Goals and Expected Outcomes

The patient will:
- Remain free of symptoms of allergic reaction.
- Maintain adequate fluid balance.
- Demonstrate absence of superinfection.
- Maintain formed stool consistency.

### Implementation

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<th>Interventions and (Rationales)</th>
<th>Patient Education/Discharge Planning</th>
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| *Monitor for severe diarrhea caused by the disruption of normal bowel flora. (May cause fluid electrolyte imbalance and superinfection of antibiotic-associated pseudomembranous colitis.)* | Instruct patient:  
  - to report loose stools or diarrhea.  
  - to avoid treating diarrhea with antidiarrheals as this can impede the process of eliminating “bad bacteria”.  
  - to check with health care provider before taking any probiotic products. |
| *Monitor for rash, pruritus, or fever (indicative of an allergic reaction to the medications.)* | *Instruct patient to report adverse reactions promptly.* |
| *Monitor intake and output carefully in patients with compromised renal function or if receiving aminoglycoside.*  
  *Monitor renal function with lab studies periodically during and after therapy. (Toxicity could occur from drug toxins that are unable to be excreted.)* | *Explain to patient purpose of required laboratory tests and schedule follow-up with health care provider.* |
| *Monitor for superinfection, especially with prolonged therapy.* | *Instruct patient to report symptoms, especially in debilitated or chronically ill patient.* |

### Evaluation of Outcome Criteria

Evaluate the effectiveness of drug therapy by confirming that patient goals and expected outcomes have been met (see “Planning”).