devices such as lead aprons when near the source. Nurses need distance as possible from the source, and (c) using shielding (a) limiting the time near the source, (b) providing as much radiation when some clients are receiving radio-

precautions are necessary. Nurses need to protect themselves, however, from radiation when some clients are receiving radiation therapy. Exposure to radiation can be minimized by (a) limiting the time near the source, (b) providing as much distance as possible from the source, and (c) using shielding devices such as lead aprons when near the source. Nurses need to become familiar with agency protocols related to radiation therapy.

BIOTERRORISM ATTACK. No one knows when a bioterrorism attack will occur. Thus, it is important that health care personnel and facilities plan and prepare for the unknown. JCAHO requires its accredited health care organizations to meet established disaster preparedness standards. In 2001, these standards were expanded to introduce the concepts of emergency management and community involvement in the preparedness process. Health care organizations are now expected to address four specific phases of disaster planning—mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery—as well as to participate annually in at least one community-wide practice drill (JCAHO, 2005a, p. 4). A major part of being prepared is knowledge. See Box 32–3 for a list of content that nurses should know about terrorism. These elements are imperative for an appropriate response to a potential bioterrorism attack.

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**CLIENT TEACHING** Reducing Electrical Hazards

- Check cords for fraying or other signs of damage before using an appliance. Do not use if damage is apparent.
- Avoid overloading outlets and fuse boxes with too many appliances.
- Use only grounded outlets and plugs.
- Always pull a plug from the wall outlet by firmly grasping the plug and pulling it straight out. Pulling a plug by its cord can damage the cord and plug unit.
- Never use electric appliances near sinks, bathtubs, showers, or other wet areas, because water readily conducts electricity.
- Keep electric cords and appliances out of the reach of young children.
- Place protective covers over wall outlets to protect young children.
- Have all uninsulated wiring in the home altered to meet safety standards.
- Carefully read instructions before operating electric equipment. Clients who do not understand how to operate the equipment should seek advice.
- Always disconnect appliances before cleaning or repairing them.
- Unplug any appliance that has given a tingling sensation or shock and have an electrician evaluate it for stray current.
- Keep electric cords coiled or taped to the ground away from areas of traffic to prevent others from damaging the cords or tripping over them.

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**BOX 32–3 Key Knowledge Content about Bioterrorism**

- Detection and reporting of an unusual outbreak or syndrome (e.g., CDC's categorization of biological agents and the process for reporting to public health authorities)
- Treatment of casualties (e.g., basic prophylactic guidelines, nursing care needs for each biological agent)
- Implementation of control measures (e.g., using standard precautions for every patient, isolation procedures, cleaning, disinfection and sterilization of equipment, linen, and the environment)
- Resource acquisition and preparedness planning (e.g., how to obtain resources such as medical equipment, medications, personnel during a crisis)
- Management of public reactions to bioterrorism (e.g., clear communication to victims, mental health professional support, treatment of anxiety in people not exposed but concerned)

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