**NURS 4700 Lesson #1 Mrs. Suzanne Lacroix Patient Care Scenario-Stroke**

**Meet your patient:**

Suzanne Lacroix, a 66-year-old French Canadian woman, awoke in the middle of the night and fell when she tried to get up and go to the bathroom. She fell because she was not able to control her left leg. Her husband took her to the hospital, where she was diagnosed with an acute ischemic stroke. Because she had awakened with symptoms, the actual time of onset was unknown and she was not a candidate for tPA.

**Subjective Data:**

* Left arm and leg are weak and feel numb
* Feeling depressed and fearful
* Requires help with ADLs
* Concerned regarding having another stroke
* Says she has not taken her medication for high cholesterol
* History of a brief episode of left-sided weakness and tingling of the face, arm, and hand 3 months earlier, which totally resolved and for which she did not seek treatment

**Objective Data & Physical Examination:**

* BP: 180/110
* Left sided arm weakness (3/5) and leg weakness (4/5)
* Decreased sensation on the left side, particularly the hand
* Left homonymous hemianopsia
* Overweight
* Alert, oriented, and able to answer questions appropriately but mild slowness in responding

**Critical Thinking Questions:**

* 1. **How does Suzanne’s prior health history put her at risk for a stroke?**
  2. **How can the nurse address Suzanne’s concerns regarding having another stroke?**
  3. **How can Suzanne and her family address activity issues such as driving after the stroke?**
  4. **What strategies might the home health nurse use to help Suzanne and her family cope with her feeling depressed?**
  5. **What lifestyle changes should Suzanne make to reduce the likelihood of another stroke?**
  6. **How will homonymous hemianopsia affect Suzanne’s hygiene, eating, driving, and community activities?**
  7. **What factors should the nurse assess for related to outpatient rehabilitation for Suzanne?**
  8. **What other health issues may Suzanne experience?**