**Unit 27—Medications That Affect the Nervous System**

Objectives

Upon completing this unit, you should be able to:

* Define the terms listed in the vocabulary.
* Describe the nervous system.
* Define pain.
* Explain the special considerations for older adults with pain.
* Give some indications of pain in neonates, infants, toddlers, and older children.
* Explain various techniques for assessing pain in children.
* Complete the critical thinking questions and activities presented in this unit.
* State the actions, uses, contraindications, adverse reactions, dosage and route, implications for patient care, patient teaching, and special considerations for narcotic analgesics, barbiturates, anti-parkinsonian drugs, and anticonvulsants.
* State the action, usual dosage, and adverse reactions of selected analgesic-antipyretics and a narcotic antagonist (naloxone hydrochloride).
* Complete the Spot Check on selected medications used to treat pain.
* State the schedule, duration, usual sedative dose, and usual hypnotic dose of selected barbitu- rates.
* Give examples of benzodiazepines that are effective sedative-hypnotics.