

Sarah, a nurse on a pulmonary/medical unit, admits James Boyd, a 68 year old with exacerbation of COPD. Mr. Boyd's breathing is labored, and he is coughing up thick, copious amounts of yellowish-green sputum. When Sarah brings Mr. Boyd's evening medication to him, he says, "I don't want to take my medication. It's not going to help me and it doesn't matter anyway because I'm not going to be around for much longer." He appears sad, depressed, and sullen. Sarah tries to talk to him about how he's feeling, but he looks away and quits talking when his wife walks into his room. With several recent hospital admissions for exacerbation of his COPD and his current behavior, Sarah suspects Mr. Boyd is at risk for self harm and decide more information is needed to determine if he will be safe in the hospital.