Case Study

**Patient Profile.** Mrs. C. is a 280 lb (112 kg) 48-year-old African American woman admitted for an incision and drainage of a right renal abscess.

**Subjective Data**
RN for 20 years  
Lives alone  
Desires 0 pain during therapy but will accept 1 to 2 on a scale of 0 to 10  
Reports incision area pain as a 2 or 3 between dressing changes and as a 10 during dressing changes  
States sharp, pulling pain persists 1 to 2 hr after dressing change  
Reports pain between dressing changes controlled by 2 Percocet tablets  
Reports morphine 2 mg IV barely touches pain during dressing changes

**Objective Data**
Requires dry-to-dry dressing changes four times a day for 1 week  
Doctor’s order: Morphine 4-15 mg IV every 1 to 2 hours as needed for pain

**Critical Thinking Questions – RETURN YOUR ANSWERS TO YOUR INSTRUCTOR.**

1. Initially, what dose of IV morphine should be given?  
2. Describe the assessment data, both subjective and objective, that support the dose selected in question 1.  
3. How long should the nurse wait after the IV morphine dose to begin the dressing change?  
4. If an initial dose of 6 mg IV morphine reduces the pain to a 6 during the dressing change, what nursing action is indicated?  
5. What dose should be administered for subsequent dressing changes?  
6. What additional pain therapies might the nurse plan to help Mrs. C. through the dressing changes?  
7. When Mrs. C. is discharged needing dressing changes for 3 days at home, how would the home care nurse organize her care? The nurse knows that Mrs. C. has obtained adequate pain relief with 8 mg IV morphine.  
8. Based on the data presented, write one or more appropriate nursing diagnoses. Are there any collaborative problems?