

### QUESTION

1. A patient with a long history of chronic kidney disease (CKD) is being treated with a diuretic. The patient's serum electrolyte levels are as follows:

Electrolyte	Level
Sodium (Na <sup>+</sup> )	135 mEq/L
Potassium (K <sup>+</sup> )	2.8 mEq/L
Calcium (Ca <sup>2+</sup> )	8.5 mg/dL
Magnesium (Mg <sup>2+</sup> )	0.7 mg/dL

2. The patient is also experiencing muscle weakness and cramps. The nurse should monitor for signs of hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia.

### ANSWER

The patient's serum electrolyte levels indicate hypokalemia (K<sup>+</sup> 2.8 mEq/L) and hypomagnesemia (Mg<sup>2+</sup> 0.7 mg/dL). The patient's symptoms of muscle weakness and cramps are consistent with these electrolyte imbalances. The nurse should monitor for signs of hypokalemia and hypomagnesemia, such as muscle weakness, cramps, and arrhythmias.

3. The patient's diuretic therapy should be adjusted to correct the electrolyte imbalances. The nurse should monitor the patient's electrolyte levels and symptoms closely.

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