Patient Care Scenario

You are the nurse working in the Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) this morning and you receive the following report on one of your assigned patients:

Freddy Mack is a 64 year old retired farmer from Olton with a history of Type I diabetes, CHF, and Renal failure requiring outpatient dialysis 3 times a week. He was admitted to MICU yesterday following a below the knee amputation of his right leg due to a non-healing wound that advanced to gangrene.

In PACU he was slow to wake up. Once awake, he experienced nausea, vomiting and severe pain requiring high doses of pain medication.

During the night he was restless and irritable. He refuses to look at the operative leg and has voiced concerns that he may have difficulty caring for himself at home. His blood sugar has been running in the 200's despite sliding scale Regular insulin being given subcutaneously every 4 hours per protocol.

He has a right arm AV fistula that has a palpable thrill and audible bruit and a left forearm peripheral IV with NS infusing at 150 ml/hr.
The right leg stump dressing is clean, dry and intact.
He has coarse crackles to the bilateral lower lobes of his lungs.
Current vital signs are: BP 150/90, HR 88, RR 22, SaO2 91% on room air and temp 99.2 F.

Today's lab:

Lab	Patient	Ref. Range	Lab	Patient	Ref. Range
Glucose	346	60 – 100 mg/dL	**WBC**	14	5.5 – 15.5 x 10^9/L
Calcium	10.0	8.6 – 10.2 mg/dL	**RBC**	3.4	3.9 -5.3 – RBC x 10^6/μL
Sodium	140	135 – 145 mEq/L	**Hgb**	8	11.5 – 16.5 g/dL
Potassium	5.1	3.5 – 5.0 mEq/L	**Hct**	25	35 - 45%
CO_2	17	23 – 29 mEq/L	**Platelets**	160	150 – 400 x 10^9/L
Chloride	101	96 – 106 mEq/L	**Neut.**	60	54 – 62%
BUN	52	2.1– 7.1 mg/dL	**Lymphs**	33	25 – 33%
Creatinine	4.3	0.6 – 1.3 mg/dL	**Mono**	6.7	3% – 7%
			Eos	0.2	1 – 3%
			Baso	0.1	0.0 – 0.75%