Critical Care Overview Content

Lewis-65

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On-line Content (1.5 hr)

Unit Objectives:

- Discuss ethical and legal issues in the delivery of critical care. (2,7)*
- Describe examples of advocacy witnessed in the clinical areas. (1,2,3,5)*
  * End-of-Program Student Learning Outcomes

Assignment:
Read Lewis Chapter 65 pg. 1533-1537 and the Unit 1: Critical Care Nursing PowerPoint.
Read the case study, then answer the case study questions below.

CASE STUDY

▶ Margaret Mayfield is a 62 year old female who has been admitted from the ED to the critical care unit, after calling 911 due to severe fatigue, weakness, and fever. Her past medical history includes: dwarfism, HTN, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, and chronic Foley catheter due to urinary retention. She lives alone in an apartment and has no family members. Her friend is her POA for healthcare, and is the only contact listed. She has a home health aide visit once a week to assist her with bathing and all of her meals are delivered from local take-out restaurants. She utilizes a walker at home, however reports she hasn't been out of bed for the last several days due to weakness and fever. She uses a private ambulance service to go to physician appointments; this is the only time she gets out of her apartment for the last three years. Home medications include carvedilol, simvastatin, aspirin, and insulin. She does not have her medications with her and does not know the doses.

Case Study Questions

▶ As the critical care nurse caring for her, what overall concerns do you have?
  ▶ As a critical care nurse some concerns, I would have for this patient would be her lack of mobility and her lack of a support system. It seems this patient is extremely isolated and does not leave her bed much let alone her home. She is at risk for several physiological issues along with emotional issues. She also has a few comorbidities that may affect her healing process. Since this patient eats take-out food for every meal I am also concerned about her nutritional status.

▶ Describe ways in which you would communicate with her and her POA for healthcare. Include what topics you would discuss at this time in her hospitalization.
  ▶ I would like to talk with both the patient and her POA together, so they are both getting the same information and they are able to feel informed like I am not holding anything back from either of them.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  ▶ An ethical issue that may come about in this patients case may deal with autonomy. This patient has appointed her friend her POA. This gives the friend the right to make medical decisions on behalf of the patient. If the patient does not like what the friend chooses this deals with the patients own autonomy.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  ▶ A legal issue that may be seen in a critical care setting could be related to informed consent. Informed consent is a patients right to fully understand what he or she has consented to for the consent to be valid. If the patient in the critical care unit in unconscious or has a POA they may not understand what is being consented.

▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  ▶ I would serve as an advocate for Margaret by knowing and understanding her wishes and trying my best to implement them into the plan of care. I would also advocate for her with her caregiver and ensuring that we get her home as soon as safely possible.

▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
  ▶ Other departments I would involve would include a case manager, a dietary consultant, and PT and OT to help her with her self care activities.

Place your answers to these questions in the **"Unit 1: Overview CC dropbox" by 1/11/2023 at 0800.** Be prepared to share and discuss your thoughts in class.

In order to receive full credit (1 hour class time) for this assignment, it must be completed in its entirety by the due date/time assigned. Any assignments not completed in its entirety will result in missed class time.