

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?
 - Her past medical history is a concern I may have. She has a history of dwarfism, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus, and has a chronic foley catheter due to urinary retention. Her history of fever, severe fatigue and weakness for the last few days are also a area of concern for me. The patient does have a chronic foley catheter, so I would be concerned for UTI.
- ▶ 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.
 - It is important to explain all procedures and ask if the patient or the patients POA have any questions. It is important to include the patient's cultural practices and beliefs in the topics. I would also ask about past medical history and surgical history. I think it would be important to ask how the patient feels and what they want as an outcome of their treatment.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
 - I think an ethical issue here could be that she does have a power of attorney and the POA does have the authority to make medical decisions on the behalf of the patient if the patient isn't able to make decisions on their own. I think an ethical issue could arise if the POA makes a decision that is not what the patient would want or is not in the patients best wishes or beliefs.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
 - The patient has a POA and legally the POA makes medical decisions on behalf of the patient if the patient is not capable of making decisions of their own. The POA has legal authority to make decisions and that could be an issue.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
 - First, I would try to find out the dosages of Margaret's medications. It's important to have the correct medications and dosages that have been prescribed for the patient. I would also make sure the patient is eating since she has complained of weakness and fatigue. It is important the patient is taking in enough nutrients to get better and get stronger so she

- can get back to her normal activities of daily livings. I also think setting the patient up with support groups or social groups to help her get out of the house and socialize will help her a ton.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
 - I think it will be very important to get a case manager and social worker involved because this patient does not get out much and I think it will be important for the patient to go to support or social groups. I also think it's important to have them in the loop to make sure the patient also has their appointments and follow-ups ready for when the patient leaves the hospital.

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.