

# 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?. Some concerns I have for this patient would include her fever. This could be an indication of infection due to her long term foley use. I have concerns over her living alone, handicapped, as well as chronic disease which would put this patient at high risk. Home health only comes in once a week and if Margaret is unable to reach a phone in an emergency, her health could suffer. It is unknown dosages of medications or if Margaret has been complaint with medications due to her mobility issues the last few days. Her diet may need monitored and questioned.
- ▶ 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 explain to the patient and her POA procedures that were going to be performed. I would provide information on those findings and the next steps needed. Interprofessional conferences with the POA would be included in Margaret's health plan.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents. One ethical issue would be to allow Margaret's POA to visit to decrease her anxiety and increase her comfort. Both Margaret and her POA would be included in the plan of care to increase understanding.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents. One legal issue would include documentation of POA as well as medication errors due to unknown dosages.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret? I would advocate for Margaret to allow her POA to visit if needed, provide education for nutritional services such as meals on wheels to her home, and discussing with her if she is still comfortable living on her own.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why? I would include social services to monitor her living situation as well as providing more services such as more health aids during the week, I would include dietitian to monitor her daily consumption and needs such as meal on wheels, and physical therapy would work on regaining strength and mobility.

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.*