

Unit 1: Overview of Critical Care Nursing
ONLINE CONTENT (1H)

Unit Objectives:

- Select appropriate nursing interventions to manage common problems and needs of critically ill patients. (1,6,)*
 - Develop strategies to manage issues related to caregivers of critically ill patients. (1,2,6)*
 - Apply the principles of hemodynamic monitoring to the nursing and interprofessional management of patients receiving monitoring. (1,2,6,7)*
- *Course Objectives

Assignment:

Review- Unit 1: Overview of 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 has a 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?**
 - ▶ Why she is experiencing severe fatigue, weakness, and a fever.
 - ▶ Is she receiving/performing proper foley care at home?
 - ▶ Is she taking or getting all her medications daily, who is picking them up or are they getting delivered?
 - ▶ Why is she eating take-out everyday?
- ▶ **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 communicate with her and her POA by sitting with them and having a conversation about my concerns.
 - ▶ Topics I would discuss would be her diet especially with her history of HTN and DM, environment safety, as well as medication safety.
- ▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ The ethical issues this case presents include is Margaret getting enough care for her needs, does she have access to the proper resources, is her POA making all decisions or does she have autonomy for her healthcare.
- ▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ The legal issue this case presents is negligence by the home health aide, she visits once a week and should have noticed that Margaret was not feeling well and report it to her supervisor to see if further medical evaluation was needed.
- ▶ **In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?**
 - ▶ I will serve as an advocate for Margaret by recommending she gets home health care more than once a week, recommend possibly that her POA gets more involved in her healthcare and see if she can take her to community events so Margaret can be more active instead of being inside all the time.
- ▶ **What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?**
 - ▶ I would involve case management/social services in her care to give her better options for her diet so she may be able to get “Meals on Wheels” rather than take-out every night. They may also have some community involvement opportunities for Margaret to participate in to get her out of the house. If she feels the need for extra assistance an assisted living facility might be recommended so she can get the assistance she needs as well as meeting new people and developing a sense of community with others around her age.

Place your answers to these questions in the “Unit 1: Overview CC dropbox” by 1/10/2024 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.