

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? The overarching concern I have for the patient is her home status, specifically not having a daily or 24hr caregiver with her conditions. Other concerns I have for her include her diet (take-out is high in sodium and fats which is not improving her hyperlipidemia, DM, and HTN), her mobility is also a concern since she was so weak she wasn't able to move, the chronic foley catheter is concerning as infection is common with them, her transportation is also worrying.

▶ 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 start by asking if she is okay with her POA present and if I can talk to them about my concerns with her health. If she seemed upset or agitated I would hold off with this and try again at another time. I would also consider if she has been properly medicated and comfortable and coherent before proceeding. One way communicate which helps is by starting by asking, "Can we have a conversation?" This helps establish what I want to accomplish. I would use open ended questions such as, "How has your home life been/are you doing well at home living alone?" The topics I would address would include her home life, diet, transportation, accessibility, mobility, and home medications. I think a huge thing to bring up would be possibly relocating her to a nursing home or 24 hour care center.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

The ethical issues I noticed in this case include ensuring that her basic rights are ensured such as autonomy, beneficence, non-maleficence, justice, etc. I think a big issue would possibly be an ethical dilemma could rise with talk of possibly relocating her or talk of it.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

The legal issues I see in this case include negligence and possible documentation errors, medical malpractice, etc. Focusing on negligence, this is the main one I would be concerned about since she is living alone at home and for multiple days

she was bed ridden and alone. I worry about her access to a phone or her POA or home health caretaker possibly not coming at that time of the week or not coming at all.

▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?

I will advocate for Margaret by involving her POA and asking her some of her preferences such as religious, meals, any beliefs she has, and what is important for her with her care. I will also make sure any of her requests and practices are held by all HCPs. I would look into community resources for her such as a fresh fruit and veggie service, transportation, etc. I would also include all staff with her care.

▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?

I would include a social worker in her care as well as home health, a pharmacist, OT and PT, and a dietician. I would involve a social worker as this stems back to her home life and they can help us come up with a safe plan for her when she goes home, this would also include home health. I would include a pharmacist because she was unfamiliar with her medications and they could work with the physician to give appropriate medications. PT and OT would help with her home care and movement and a dietician could help with educating her about good foods for her with her HTN, DM, and hyperlipidemia and possibly looking into resources for her with her accessibility.

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.