

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? Some concerns that I have would be her living on her own, especially since she does not have any family members to check in on her and home health only checks in on her once a week. Correct catheter care because if she cannot bathe herself then she is only being washed once a week. She is having food delivered from nearby restaurants, so is she receiving adequate nutrition? Not getting out of bed due to illness would be a concern for impaired skin integrity over time as well as mobility decline and poor hygiene.

▶ 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.

Topics I would discuss would include either the friend checking in often such as daily to ensure the patient gets the care she needs, or if the friend does not live close enough, then get home health to come in more often for things such as more frequent bathing, cleaning, mobility exercises, catheter care, feeding, medication education, etc.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

As the nurse, you can educate the patient and the POA on resources but autonomy is very important. Meaning they have the freedom to make their own decisions and you must respect those decisions regardless of whether you believe it is what is best for them or not.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

The patient must consent to their information being given to the POA and being apart of the care plan, as they have a right to privacy. Failure to follow this would result in violation of HIPAA.

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

I would serve as an advocate for the patient by providing the caregiver with the appropriate information and access to prepare them for their experience. Making sure to include her in the care while in the hospital, as well as contact the needed

departments for the best care possible. I would provide with hospital resources as well as community resources upon discharge.

▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why? OT, as she lives alone and this would help her in the performance of activities of daily living. Dietician, to ensure she is receiving the correct nutrition. Home health and social worker to ensure the care plan at home is adequate for her current condition, as well as insurance to ensure the patient could afford the care.

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.