

Melinda Pickens
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?
-Worried about infection/ possible sepsis from chronic foley catheter and if it is being cleaned/ cared for properly. Nutrition status, ordering take out and not a home cooked meal to provide proper nutrition. Fall risk, due to weakness and foley catheter. Psychosocial, not having any family members and a friend who helps unsure of how often but possible respite care for them. Hygiene is also of importance since a home health nurse is there once a week, but how often is she getting bathed or taking care of herself otherwise. Is she taking her medications, especially if she doesn't know what her medications are or the doses.

- ▶ 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 sit down and have a conversation with both Margaret and her POA present. I would explain my concerns about Margarets diet, home care, and environmental safety. I would want to identify possible issues or problems they have with providing care for Margaret and then try to find solutions or ways we would get Margaret the best possible care. I would also like to offer recommendations for physical therapy, possible nursing homes, or see what we could do about getting home health aid more days a week. I would also like to see if Margarets POA is overwhelmed with the care of someone else and see if she needs or would be interested in respite care and offer them resources as well.

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
Is Margaret receiving enough care for her health conditions and does she have autonomy for any of her needs? Or is her POA responsible for all her healthcare decisions?

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
The legal issue with this case is negligence since Margaret only sees a home health nurse once a week for her medications and any care that needs done. She must order out for meals and is weak, so she isn't able to clean more than likely, so her living conditions are a fall risk for her as well.

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

I would serve as an advocate for Margaret by making sure she receives the care that she needs and gets at least offered a bath daily. I would also like to make sure she knows she has the option to an assisted living/nursing home to receive around-the-clock care.

- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
 - Dietician consult because she is diabetic and at home, she orders out, so she probably isn't getting the proper nutrients she needs. Also, from lying in bed over the past several days there is a concern of a pressure ulcer formation, so she may need more protein in her diet or a different diet than normal. PT/OT to help strengthen her muscles and help her to be able to get around her house and perform ADLs. Case management to maybe see if she would benefit from going to a nursing or assisted living home.

Place your answers to these questions in the “**Unit 1: Overview CC dropdown**” 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.