

## 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? I have many concerns for Margaret including her severe fatigue and weakness causing her not to be moving for multiple days. I am also concerned about her fever since she has a chronic Foley catheter, her eating habits/diet due to her having diabetes, and only receiving food from take-out restaurants. Lastly, I am concerned about the medications she is taking along with the doses they are prescribed for. It is important for her to know her medications and take them appropriately.

▶ 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 by explaining her symptoms and course of action to treat them. I would also discuss other options for care, as having an at-home nurse once weekly may not be enough. The patient living at home alone and only having someone there once weekly could be a safety hazard. I think it would also be important to explain to her POA and herself about the medications she is taking along with what they are used for, how to take the medications, and potential side effects to look out for. I will also make sure she is checking her sugar regularly, and taking her insulin as prescribed/when needed. I would communicate options for physical therapy along with occupational therapy to help build her strength up and allow her to do as much for herself as possible. I would educate her on proper diet and alternatives to fast food takeout for each meal, such as Meals on wheels if available in her area.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

An ethical issue in this case is safety, as she is alone all week and only receives care once weekly. If something was to happen to her she has no family members to check on her.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

A legal issue in this case is the POA, as her power of attorney is a friend.

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

I will advocate for Margaret by promoting her safety and encouraging her to take measures to ensure she is safe. I will also push her to voice her opinions as autonomy is very important.

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

I would involve therapies (such as PT/OT), support groups, social groups/community groups, dietician, along with continuing home health.

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.*