

SHAWNITA MILLER

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 would be concern about Margaret symptoms of severe fatigue, weakness, and fever. She has been in bed for several days I would be concern about the developed pressure sores. Also, her history of HTN, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes. I would be concern about medication compliance. Nutrient being that she orders from local restaurants often. Chronic Foley catheter puts her at risk for UTI. She lives alone in an apartment and has no family members. She does not leave her apartment often I would be concern about her mental wellbeing.

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 use therapeutic communication and include the POA in her plan of care. Encourage them to share their concerns and state their needs. The topics I would discuss with Margaret would be her compliance with taking her medications, nutrition, pain management, and cultural /spiritual practices.

▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**

The ethical issue this case presents is self-neglect. Margaret is unable to care for herself properly. She lives alone which puts herself at a higher risk for mortality. Her ability to make medical decisions.

▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**

Margaret does not have any family so the legal issues in this case would be advance directives. If she was unable to make her own medical decisions her POA would have to make the decisions for her.

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

I would serve as an advocate for Margaret by acting as a voice for her, involving her in her plan of care. I would provide quality care, educating and

updating her about her condition. Coordinate services for her, make appropriate referrals. Help her get the resources needed.

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

I would use an interprofessional team from various disciplines to share their expertise and customized Margaret care. That would include social worker to assist her with coping skills, securing adequate resources, and making referrals. Dietician would help create a healthy meal plan to manage diabetes mellitus, physician to review medications, treat illness, and perform diagnostic tests. Case manager works with the interprofessional team to evaluate the patient's discharge needs and would monitor the care to make sure Margaret recovers in a measurable time. Occupational therapist will help with ADLs use of assistive or adaptive equipment.

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.