

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?**

Her fatigue, weakness, and fever. I also am concerned about her eating take out foods when she is diabetic and has hyperlipidemia.

- ▶ **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.**

The importance of getting up and out of bed frequently to help prevent weakness, and DVTs from prolonged immobilization. I would also address the concern that she is ordering take out, there are many programs out there that will deliver meals much healthier than take out, and they come warm or easily microwaved.

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

She lives alone, has no support system, no family. Her home health aid is only scheduled to come once a week.

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

Neglect? The patient has been left in her home by herself for the last 3 years, only having her caregiver come once a week, but she's eating take out and not getting out of bed.

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

I would assist by contacting other departments that could assist her in her proper home care, and therapy for her weakness. Also, Nutrition should get involved for proper education because of her eating habits while being diabetic and having hyperlipidemia. I am concerned about DKA or possible risk for stroke and HTN (which she also already has an issue with.) Look into programs for healthier meals that can be delivered, more frequent visits from her home health aide?

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

Nutrition, social work, therapy PT and OT,

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.