

## 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? Concerns for sepsis (fever, severe weakness, fatigue) possibly caused by a UTI due to her chronic foley catheter.
- ▶ 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 first discuss the patient's healthcare wishes with the patient first to confirm whatever measures the patient may want in the event that something were to happen and have her sign legal documents. I would confirm that her friend is legally (by document) her POA. I would discuss the patient's wishes with her POA. I would discuss her need to get out of her apartment more as this could benefit her health. I would also discuss what kinds of help her home health aide provides. I would discuss her need to improve her diet as
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.  
An ethical issue this case presents is the patient states that the only time she leaves her home is for doctor's appointments. This could be an ethical issue because she has a home health aide and this could indicate that she is not being properly taken care of.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.  
A potential legal issue presented in this case includes the fact that her friend is her POA. This would need to be proven to the healthcare system with legal documents that she is, in fact, the patient's legal POA.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?  
I will ensure that Margaret's healthcare wishes are granted and followed through with as well as trying to get in touch with case management to see if she can be placed somewhere that can provide her with the care she needs.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
Case management – help find placement in a facility that could help care for her  
Dietary – get her on a heart healthy diet  
PT/OT – help her regain strength and determine what areas of care she needs help with

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.*