

## 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?  
**She currently takes a medication to regulate her high cholesterol but is dependent on take-out food (normally high in cholesterol) as her main source of meals. She has been unable to get out of bed for the past few days due to her fever and weakness. She is unaware of the doses of her medications.**
- ▶ 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 ask if Margaret had any cultural/spiritual components that would affect care, death, or dying. I would also want to include her POA in what the current plan of care is for Margaret, as well as how she can receive updates or where she can get any questions answered. I would also make sure they are aware of Margaret's patient portal where they can see all tests and lab results themselves.**
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.  
**Possible ethical issues could include the decision to withdraw life-sustaining treatment if Margaret's condition were to worsen. This could also include whether Margaret would want to be a DNR and want life-saving measures, such as chest compressions, to be made if staff felt they were necessary.**
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.  
**HIPPA and the right to privacy could potentially be an issue if multiple people are calling the hospital for an update on Margaret. Due to her only having her POA listed as a contact, she would be the only one able to receive any information on her condition. Another issue could be informed consent. Patients are sometimes confused by certain procedures when a doctor comes to explain them, but feels they are pressured into signing the consent form. It is the nurse's responsibility to ensure that Margaret understands what she is consenting to.**
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?  
**I would protect her privacy and not release information to other contacts with her consent, make sure she understands all steps of procedures during her stay, and that she is included in the plan of care. If she does not agree with something, I would ensure to voice her concerns and not allow the procedure to continue without her consent.**

- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
**Involve physical and occupational therapy to improve her weakness, case management to discuss different meal delivery options, and dietician to discuss appropriate feedings.**

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.*