

## 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?**

- For this patient I have concerns of dehydration, UTI, non compliance to medications.

**Describe ways in which you would communicate with her and her POA for healthcare.**

- I would first talk with the patient and see what her wants and needs are as far as her care and spiritual needs. I would see how far away her POA is from her and how much information this person knows as to the patient's medical status and care.

**Include what topics you would discuss at this time in her hospitalization. Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**

- Topics that need discussed are medication compliance, healthy diet, need for home health aid more than once a week.

- Ethically this patient has the right to make her own decisions about her living situation but maybe suggesting an assisted living facility may be a better choice. Making sure that all decisions benefit the patient without doing harm. And lastly, keeping the patient's information confidential when discussing health care decisions.

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

- The patient needs to know about every care practice that takes place. They need to have informed consent but if the patient isn't in a state that they are able to make their own decisions the POA will need to do so. The patient should also not have to worry about malpractice while under our care.

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

- I will stand on what my patient wants as far as health care choices go. I will give her any and all information available so that she can choose what she believes is the best choice. I will fight for what she needs.

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

- I would involve a case manager, dietary, and PT.

Place your answers to these questions in the "Unit 1: Overview CC dropdown" by 1/8/2025 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 and must be completed by the end of the semester to pass the course.