

## 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 concerned about Margaret's severe fatigue and weakness, chronic Foley catheter, lack of mobility, and social isolation.

- 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.

Involve her in the decision-making process as much as possible, as well as her POA. Respecting her autonomy, even if she may not fully be able to contribute, is still important. Topics to discuss include current condition status, treatment plan, importance of medication adherence, staying on top of changes, and emotional status

- Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

The possibility of Margaret's autonomy being taken away by her POA if she becomes incapable of making her own decisions. Potential for neglect by the home health care provider. If Margaret's condition deteriorates further, there may be decisions around end-of-life care, such as whether to pursue resuscitation or mechanical ventilation is an issue if the decision wasn't made by Margaret.

- Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

Several legal concerns like patient rights, decision-making authority, and the standards of care. The POA must legally act in Margaret's best interests, and failure to do so could raise questions about the validity of their consent or refusal of treatment. There may be legal concerns about whether proper infection prevention protocols were followed by her healthcare team.

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

Strengthen the support system, educate on nutrition, ability to perform self-care, aid in living assistance, and provide emotional and mental health support.

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

I would include case management, endocrinology, PT/OT, a dietician, home health, assisted living, and possibly a psych consult because of her diabetes management, lack of ability to perform ADLs, only takeout meals, living by herself with no caregiver, and possibly worsening self-esteem and moral.

Place your answers to these questions in the **“Unit 1: Overview CC dropbox”** 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.*