

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?**
 - ▶ My first concern is that she has HTN, hyperlipidemia and diabetes mellitus, and only orders take-out food. My other concern is her not leaving the house other than for her physician appointments. These both give her a greater chance of complications due to her history. Another concern is her weakness and fever that have occurred over the last several weeks. My other concern is her care. I would like to know if she does foley catheter care on herself every day or if she only gets care when her home health aide visits.
- ▶ **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 communicate with Margaret and her POA by asking when her history started as well as any other information, we should know including medication dosages. I would ask her POA what her concerns for Margaret. I would ask her when her symptoms started and what lead to her hospitalization. I would then initiate the conversation about her care. I would ask her what kind of care she gives herself daily, like foley and dental care. After hearing all of this I would ask her what she is doing nonpharmacologically to deal with her current illnesses. I would then educate her on the importance of exercise, even if it is walking for 20-30 minutes a day, proper nutrition and proper care to herself.
- ▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ An ethic issues this case presents is a lack of beneficence and non-maleficence. Her team should have prioritized Margaret's medical needs, including treating her potential infection as well as care every day to her chronic foley catheter. Interventions for a healthier lifestyle, better physical care, and financial support should have been implemented.
- ▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ Margaret's symptoms that she is presenting with (severe fatigue, weakness, fever), combined with her chronic Foley catheter could indicate possible neglect of her medical needs. A poorly managed catheter, for example, could lead to infections. There was neglect from

all parties associated with her care. Her home health aide only comes once a week and should visit more frequent or add additional care. Her physician has not reported any problems either, including her diet, and lifestyle. Her POA has not stepped in either to help with her health/ lifestyle, financial situation and transportation.

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

▶ I would advocate for Margaret to get more frequent home health aide visits and try other support services like meals-on-wheels, assisted living facilities, and other transportation assistance. I would offer her a bunch of different options to choose from as well as a list of healthy dietary choices and exercises her POA for Margaret.

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

▶ The first department I would contact would be case management to ensure she gets the appropriate resources she needs as well as see if she needs additional help from adult protective services, ect. I would then contact physical and occupational therapy to improve her strength and independence as well as show her what she can do at home by herself. I would lastly contact dietary services to set her up with appropriate and healthy foods that are okay with her chronic conditions.

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.