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?

Overall, I am concerned about her fever and severe fatigue, especially with a chronic 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 communicate with her and her POA in simple terms being sure to include all information that I have, and I would ask them to explain it back to ensure that they understand. I would discuss Margaret's condition, treatment plan, importance of medication, and ask if there are any requests or considerations that would help her.

- Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

There may be an ethical issue with informed consent. If a patient is severely fatigued, there may be a problem with their cognition and ability to understand what she is consenting to. If the POA is present, she may be able to sign for her.

- Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

There is a legal issue of negligence with Margaret being left alone all but one day a week. Her deterioration could have been caught sooner with the right care. She should have a home nurse or a place to stay such as assisted living, not only to care for her bathing and nutrition, but also to take care of her medication since she does not know the doses that she has to take.

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

I will make sure that the care she needs is given to her, her requests are followed, and that the right medications and doses are given.

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

I would involve a dietician for her nutrition status because she eats take out everyday and has DM, high cholesterol, and high blood pressure. I would involve PT because she is/will be weak due to her immobility over the past several days.

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.