

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?
 - S/S Margaret is experiencing
 - Past medical history: dwarfism, chronic foley catheter
 - Patient with chronic disease: HTN, hyperlipidemia, diabetes mellitus
 - Elderly who lives alone
 - Has no family members
 - Only gets food from take-out restaurants
 - Hasn't gotten out of bed for 3 days
 - Only leaves the house for physician appointments
 - Does not know 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.
 - The importance of eating a healthy diet to manage her chronic diseases
 - The importance of physical activity to improve her overall health
 - The importance of medication compliance
 - Resources available within the community

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
 - **Beneficence** – admitting Margaret to the critical care unit to restore her health

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
 - **Advance directives** – Margaret has a POA

- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
 - Include Margaret in the plan of care
 - Communicate effectively and keep Margaret informed
 - Support Margaret and her decisions about her care
 - Promote the interests of Margaret
 - Provide a healing environment
 - Respect legal and ethical issues

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

- **Case management** – to provide resources tailored to Margaret’s needs upon discharge
- **Dietitian** – to provide dietary recommendations and nutrition advice to help manage Margaret’s HTN, hyperlipidemia, and diabetes mellitus
- **Physical Therapy** – to regain Margaret’s strength and improve her mobility
- **Pharmacy** – to ensure Margaret is taking her home medications safely and effectively

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.