

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?
Since she is diabetic, I have concerns over what her blood sugar is because the weakness and fatigue could be coming from that. I'm also concerned about her blood pressure because of her history. Then due to her having a chronic Foley catheter, she might have an infection that could be causing her to experience these symptoms. I would also be concerned about the last time she took her medications due to being unable to get out of bed from weakness.
- ▶ 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.
First and foremost, I will speak with the patient about her care privately. Then I will include the POA into the conversation. I would include the food that she is eating, how often she is getting out of the house, and medication compliance.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
I think there is an ethical issue with the fact that there is a POA but she never leaves the house and is only helped once a week for bathing.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
There could be a legal issue that comes up with the patient becoming neglected, since both the home-health aide and potentially the POA, has been aware of how the patient is living. Especially if she has been admitted to the ICU.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
I will be an advocate by communicating with both patient and POA to see what changes can be made in her everyday life. I can also ask why there is only one day out of the week that a home-health aide is helping this patient.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
I would involve the dietician with her care because she is only eating take-out food, and should be eating an adequate amount of vegetables, fruits, and protein. I would involve the company who has the home-health aide, physical/occupational therapy, and her primary physician.

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.