

## 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?
  - ▶ Everything. Her nutrition and mobility status, HTN, diabetes, chronic foley catheter for urine retention, social isolation, only leaves her apartment for physicians' appointments, and unknown medication dosages.
- ▶ 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 the patient primarily, but speak with both if the patient so chooses, and would communicate with the POA if the patient's LOC or status would change.
  - ▶ A possible topic for discussion would be on when the POA can make decisions on behalf of the patient should they be unable to make a decision for themselves.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  - ▶ Moral Distress. The patient knows they need help and care, but "feels powerless" or unable to do so. So, the POA may step and make decisions on the patient's behalf.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  - ▶ The patient's rights can also be infringed upon due to having a POA. The POA could potentially make decisions the patient does not agree with when incapacitated or unable to make a decision.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  - ▶ I will serve as an advocate for Margaret by providing culturally competent care, supporting her caregivers, and helping with discharge planning according to the needs of the patient.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
  - ▶ Dietary- for her poor nutrition, and change her eating habits.
  - ▶ Endocrinology- for diabetes control/management.
  - ▶ Urology- for chronic foley catheterization due to urinary retention.
  - ▶ OT/PT- for mobility issues and ADL issues.
  - ▶ Therapist- for social isolation issues.

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.*