

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?
One of the main concerns I have for Margaret is that she does not have her medications with her, and does not know the dosages to them. This leads me to think she has not been very well educated on the meds she is taking, and therefore might not take them all the time because she might not know the importance. I would also be concerned with the fact that she has not been up and out of bed for several days due to her symptoms being so bad. This can lead to other sicknesses such as pneumonia, as well as pressure injuries, that can become infected if not treated promptly. My last concern is the kind of food she has been eating, especially since she has diabetes, HTN, and hyperlipidemia.
- ▶ 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.
When communicating with Margaret and her POA I would want to make sure to always inform both of them what is going on and prepare them for what they both might experience while in the critical care unit. I would want to make sure that they both were aware of who might be coming in and out of the room to take care of Margaret. Another topic I would want to add to make sure to discuss would be anxiety levels. Coming into the hospital can be a very scary thing to go through for not only the patient but also the caregiver, so I would want to ensure they are both comfortable and relaxed the best they can.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
Some ethical issues in this case would be the fact that Margaret's POA is not going to be able to make decisions until Margaret can not for herself. Also, when Margaret is in the hospital her code status should be up to date and based off of her decision.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
The biggest legal issue I noticed in this case was that Margaret needs to be asked if it is okay for information on her condition can be translated to her POA, in order to maintain HIPPA. If Margaret does not want her information translated to her POA, then we will have to explain to her POA that the only information she can be given legally is the state of Margaret's current medical condition.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?

Some of the other ways I would serve as an advocate for Margaret rather than including her POA, would be to ask about any cultural or spiritual beliefs that would affect her plan of care. I want to be able to take care of Margaret the best I can, which means that I need to support her beliefs, even if they are different than my own. I also will support her decisions of how she wants her care to be done, and promote autonomy and justice while she is in the hospital and during discharge.

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

I would want to get dietician involved because of what she said about only eating foods from local restaurants every day. This leads me to suspect that she has not been getting adequate nutrition. I would also want to get pharmacy involved, because they would be able to explain to Margaret in detail the dosages of her medications she is taking, as well as the purpose for all of them.

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.