

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.

Nadia Drivas

Case Study Questions

As the critical care nurse caring for her, what overall concerns do you have?

I have been concerned about her fever and weakness for the last few days. I want to know if she is taking her insulin and checking her blood sugar levels. I would also like to look at her skin. She only gets dressed once a week, so that she may have wounds.

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 talk to the patient and her POA in person. I would use the teach-back method and hand out the patient and the POA. Topics I would discuss are getting the patient out of the house and providing them with a handout about the senior center and their activities. They also have a bus that can take her to the senior center. I would also educate them on home-cooked meals or meals on wheels. Medication is also a concern. If the patient spends most of her time in her room/bed. Is she taking her medication, and is she taking it in the right way? Does she have a Foley in at this time? If it's not taken care of, she could get an infection.

Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

I would need to respect the individual's own decision with her treatment. With a POA, patients still have free will over their care if they are alert and oriented. "Most POA documents authorize the agent to represent the principal in all property and financial matters as long as the principal's mental state of mind is good" (Hayes, 2024)

Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

HIPPA may be a legal issue. If the patient is alert and oriented, the POA doesn't have to know about her care. However, the POA is a friend who can't always be around, and she may be neglected. If the patient shows signs of neglect, I must contact case management.

What other ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?

I can educate the patient and POA about the patient's treatments. Provide resources to help the patient. Speak to doctors and case management on behalf of the patient.

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

Med surg, progressive care, and rehab. Med Surg may be used, but most likely progressive care. After the ICU, she will need to go to a step down to monitor her to make sure the treatment is working. After, she may go to rehab to build her strength

Hayes, A. (2024). *Power of attorney (PoA): Meaning, types, and how and why to set one up*. Investopedia. <https://www.investopedia.com/terms/p/powerofattorney.asp>

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.