

## 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?
  - ▶ Some concerns that I have are that the patient is only eating takeout food rather than other nutritious options, that the POA is not helping her get to her appointments so she is having to take the ambulance every time, that she is hardly leaving the apartment that she lives in and has not left it in three years aside from appointments, and that she is only getting bathed one time per week along with other hygiene practices.
- ▶ 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.
  - ▶ To start off, I would attempt to get the patient alone in order to hear how she is feeling and what her side of the story is. This situation to me seems like the POA is not doing her job properly or does not know what it means to have this title in order to take care of Margaret. I would discuss with Margarets POA what her roles are and what she should be doing such as checking in on her throughout the week, making sure that the home health aid is properly doing her job, making sure that Margarets' home is properly supplied with food by possibly taking Margaret to the store to shop, and she also needs to be advocating for Margaret and her needs.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  - ▶ Some ethical issues that I have noticed with case is the fact that Margaret only gets help with bathing one time per week which is completely absurd because no human being should be expected to only bath once every week. Margaret should have assistance bathing at least every other day in order to maintain proper hygiene. The second issue that I noticed was that Margaret is only supplied with fast food to eat which should be contradicted due to her diabetes, hypertension, and hyperlipidemia. Margaret needs to be able to have access to nutritional foods that are going to prevent her previous diagnosis from worsening.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  - ▶ A legal issue that I noticed in this case were that Margaret never leaves the house. From the way that I see it this can be considered abuse or neglect because Margaret is perfectly able to leave her house

and complete daily activities such as shopping or even going on a walk, but due to her POA being unfit for her position, Margaret is not doing these things.

- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  - ▶ Ways that I can serve as an advocate for Margaret is by starting off by making sure that there is no one else that would be able to be her POA so that way there could be someone more fit for the job. If this was not an option, then we could possibly see about Margaret getting placement for an assisted living where she would receive assistance with her ADL's, medications, and she could also have opportunities to make some friends.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
  - ▶ Other departments I would involve in Margarets care would be PT/OT, pharmacy, and a dietician. I would utilize these areas in order to help Margaret perform daily activities, help her improve her walking/ambulation, pharmacy would help us to figure out her medications so she knows what she is taking and how much, and I would also consult a dietician so that way she can be educated on proper foods to eat and ways that she can acquire 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.*