

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?
 - ▶ For this patient some overall concerns I have for her are the symptoms she presented with. Since she has a chronic Foley catheter there are some concerns of her having a UTI that causes sepsis. Another concern as a critical care nurse is the patient's sedentary lifestyle, as the only time she leaves her apartment is due to doctor appointments.
- ▶ 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 this patient and her POA I would talk to them about Margaret's current health status and treatment plan. This can help keep them both well informed on what is happening. I would also talk to them about Margaret's medication management and adherence. This can help prevent any further issues from arising. Social support is another thing I would talk to them about. Since Margaret does not get out much or have any family it is important to address her isolation and help her find ways to improve her emotional well being.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
 - ▶ An ethical issue that is present in this case is quality of life. With her medical history and her current health status it may be better for her to go into a long term care facility. Since Margaret does not get out much and needs help with her everyday living it may be better for her to go to a facility who can provide her care around the clock. This may also help with getting her out of social isolation.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

- ▶ Since Margaret's POA is her friend it may cause legal issues with how Margaret wants care. It is important that the POA understands Margaret's wishes or it can cause legal issues.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
 - ▶ A few ways I will advocate Margaret is to ensure to have good communication with her and her POA. Another way is to address any of her concerns and be there to support her emotionally.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
 - ▶ Some departments that I would involve in her care are PT/OT due to Margaret's limited mobility. I would also involve endocrinology because of her diabetes mellitus. Nephrology would also be involved due to her chronic foley and a UTI being the potential cause of her admission. I would also get a social worker involved to help Margaret and her POA the best living situation for her.

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.