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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?**
 - ▶ I'm concerned that because Margaret has a chronic foley catheter and has an aid that visits once per week she may be at risk of a CAUTI related to inconsistent hygiene. Since she has no family listed and her friend is her POA I'm worried that her mental health is at a low point and she may have issues with depression. Along with the lines of depression I'm also worried that she may not be compliant with medications considering she does not know the doses.
- ▶ **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 like her POA to come into the hospital to see her since she would be a familiar face otherwise I'd like to call and have a conversation to see if the POA has any information about family history, social history, advanced directives, medication compliance, and level of physical activity/ADLs.
- ▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ The fact that it is unknown whether the patient has living family and has a POA whom is unrelated to her poses some potential ethical issues to me. It is allowed to have an POA unrelated to her but it does become an issue if relatives call and want to add input or get any information on the situation.
- ▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**
 - ▶ In the event that Margaret becomes unresponsive and unable to answer questions her POA could change any decisions that Margaret has already made about her care. This leaves grey areas for the nurse because the POA can allow care that Margaret might not have wanted. If there is a POA involved and family are living they may pose a legal issue because they might want to have input but are not legally allowed to.
- ▶ **In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?**
 - ▶ I will advocate for Margaret by asking her questions and seeing what she would like to have done with her care then educate the POA about her desired decisions and interests. This allows the POA and Margaret to decide what the foundations of their decision making should be if

Margaret cannot answer for herself. I can also be in the room to support Margaret if her POA comes for an in-person talk.

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

- ▶ I would like to get case management in the involvement of her care to determine if we can get a different type of transportation for her since a private ambulance may be costly for her. I want to get consultations for PT to help get her walking with a walker while assessing her movements and eligibility in a skilled nursing facility and OT to see how independent she is with her ADLs. Lastly, I'd like to get the nutritionist to check in to see how well she is eating and possibly recommend meal preparation options or put in orders for supplemental nutrition if needed.

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.