

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?
 - Overall concerns that I have with Margaret is her overall weakness and physically she is declining, she has not been out of bed for several days and she has limited mobility due to weakness and her chronic health issues. Margarets medical history requires careful management and not having her medications with her is not good either, so it is certain that she is not getting the appropriate treatment. I also have a concern that she may have an UTI infection from the indwelling catheter or her inability to get out of bed could lead to pneumonia. Her social and emotional well-being seems to not be good; she lives alone and has little to no social interaction. Lastly, Margaret gets meals delivered to her house that are from take-out restaurants. These meals often have high sodium and fat which could be a contributing factor to her HTN, hyperlipidemia and diabetes.
- ▶ 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 speaking with Margaret I would make sure her understanding is clear about her health conditions and reason for hospitalization, use visual aids or written instructions for better understanding, promote a good physical and emotional state and reassure her while she is in the hospital. As she becomes more aware and less tired clarify any questions she may have and discuss her plan of care and changes in treatment and medication compliance. When it comes to discussion with her POA I would inform her of Margarets admission and plan of care and get her POA involved in decision making if Margaret is unable to. Discussing any advanced directives or preferences that Margaret would like to be in place in her plan of care. And discussing discharge planning and arranging for more frequent home health visits and support after discharge.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
 - Some ethical issues include autonomy, she has a POA, and decisions may need to be made by the POA not Margaret. But we still need to take into consideration her preferences and involving her as much as possible in decision making even if he is not able to fully comprehend the situation. Another ethical issue is justice, we want to make sure she has equal

- access to care, ensuring she has the right resources and assistance after discharge.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
 - Potential for neglect, since she lives alone, has limited interaction, and home health nurse only comes once a week this could be a major safety concern for her safety and wellbeing. It is also important for the POA to be involved in providing informed consent for any treatment plans since Margaret may be unable to fully communicate.
 - ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
 - I would help her get in touch with social workers and case managers to evaluate her needs after discharge, I will encourage psychological support such as counseling. I would promote safety and autonomy to make sure Margarets wishes are respected in terms of medical treatment.
 - ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
 - Social Work to ensure she has adequate community resources and assistance with discharge planning. Physical Therapy early in her hospital stay to improve strength and mobility. Dietary Services to guide her on how to improve her diet and managing her diabetes. And pharmacy to ensure she receives the correct medications and doses. And maybe someone who comes to her house two times a week to do an activity with her to keep her company.

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.