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 am concerned that she is not receiving enough assistance at home. I think she should have someone come in at least three times a week and utilize a meal service such as meals on wheels that would provide more nutritious food that will benefit her overall health and her diabetes mellitus. I am concerned that her issues will only progress if someone isn't there to help her manage things at home. Finally, I am concerned that if something does not change upon discharge, she will land herself right back in the hospital.

- 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 focus my communication on asking what Margaret is able to do herself and have her perform tasks such as emptying her foley catheter bag and providing peri care for herself, if these tasks could be improved, I would educate her, and initiate teach back. I would ask Margaret what her routine is like at home and when her symptoms started and how they progressed. I would ask her POA what they are doing to help Margaret and how far away they live and how often they are in contact with her to get a general idea of their level of involvement. I would focus on what we can do to prevent further issues. Considering her hospital stay, I would explain to Margaret what her diagnoses is and explain any procedures I may initiate and why they are important, given Margaret's consent, I would include the POA in these conversations.

- Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

I think a big ethical issue here is lack of support and resources. I understand there is a POA involved, however, it is a lot of work being one of the only support people available. In addition, there is a home health aide, but once a week is not nearly enough help for the extent of Margaret's healthcare issues. In addition, it was stated that she laid in bed for several days due to her illness and it is

unknown if any of the two-support people involved where there for her and recognized there was a decline.

- Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

A legal issue could be a violation of HIPAA. This is because even though there is a POA involved, the POA is only entitled to so much information. This could be a legal issue because some healthcare workers may not think it is a big deal. However, if Margaret is alert and oriented as well as able to make her own decisions, HIPAA must be taken into consideration carefully.

- In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?

I would consult a case worker in attempt for Margaret to get more assistance at home. In addition, I would want a dietician to come in and speak with her about the importance of healthy eating and how she can achieve healthier meals. I would personally ensure all education is done thoroughly and that she understands what must be done. If she is unable to understand or perform the tasks based on education, I would consult home health to provide an idea of what she will need help with as well as how often I believe a caregiver should see and assist her.

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

I would include case management for more help at home, a dietician to help Margaret improve her diet, and home health to provide them an idea of how much assistance is 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.