

## 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? She lives alone. She only has a caregiver once a week. She only leaves her house for appointments. She is on a lot of medications but doesn't know the doses or have the medications with her. All her meals are takeout.

▶ 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 sit them down together to discuss her health and ways to improve her health going forward and ask if they have any questions about anything. I would talk to them about her diet considering that all she eats is takeout. I would talk to them about her being more mobile and moving around more. I would also talk to them about the possibility of getting a home health nurse that can come more than once a week if the POA cannot be there frequently to check on her. I would talk to them about finding a more effective way to keep up on her medications and for her to better keep track of the doses.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

Her POA is not a family member and may not be able to make the best decisions concerning her health. She has no family. She is living alone and only has someone with her once a week. She doesn't know the doses of her medications.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

Is the POA neglecting or abusing her? No one has seen her in a week and she only leaves the house for doctors appointments.

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

Helping her get recommendations for better diet options. Helping her get home health nurse that can care for her more than just once a week. Helping her find ways to be safe in her home when she is alone. Help her to be better aware of her medications.

▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
I would involve a dietician in her care to help her make changes to her diet. I would also involve a pharmacist so that we can figure out her medications and a way for her to better keep up with them. I would involve home health to help plan more frequent care for her at home. I would involve PT and OT to help her become stronger and more able to be safely mobile at home when she is alone. I would involve social workers to make sure that the patient is safe and being properly cared for.

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.*