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?
  - As her nurse, some concerns I would have overall is the length of which she has had the indwelling catheter and if her home health aide only comes once a week, how well is she able to clean herself on the days that she is not getting a bath. I am also concerned that all of her meals are from take out restaurants. She also does not have her medications or doses so if we were to give her medications, they could either be too much of a dose or too low and take her out of therapeutic effect.
- 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 begin by asking her and her POA to describe a typical day with the aide and without. I would then discuss different ways that she could clean herself that may make it easier for her to perform her own hygiene. I would also discuss the importance of a balance meal, especially with diabetes and provide consultation with a dietician that could provide her easy meals that she could prepare at home on her own. I would also tell her to create a medication list to keep with her at all times and to keep it updates as her medications change.
- Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  - The patient requires a home health aide for bathing but is only provided this once a week. Because of this, she was unable to get out of bed for several days which put her at risk for pressure sores and pneumonia.
- Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  - The patient's friend is the POA and doesn't seem to be as active in her care as she needs to be. It is unsure of how close of a friend this person is to the patient and could possibly be not close at all.
- In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  - I will advocate that Margaret needs more care than what she is receiving. This means she will either need more frequent visits from both the home health aide and POA or to move into an assisted living that has around the clock staff to help her as she needs.
- What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?

- I would involve dietician and nutrition to help the patient come up with a diet plan that fits into a diabetic diet. I would also consult urology about the chronic foley catheter and fluid retention. I would involve lab for a urinalysis and culture and sensitivity, as well as CBC and CMP.

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.