

## 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?
  - Any development of skin breakdown is she taking her medication correctly, any signs of a UTI, Blood sugar assessment and are her vitals within normal limits.
- ▶ 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.
  - Educate on proper foley care, Medication education and importance of taking correctly, how to assess own vital signs and also have pt demonstrate obtaining own vitals. Have pt explain obtaining a blood sugar and also demonstrate insulin administration.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  - Ethical issues could include Beneficence due to the patient might need a nursing home which is intended to benefit the patient. She might not want to go to one and we can't force her because that would take away her autonomy. Also informing the POA of the entire situation without checking with the pt first can break confidentiality.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  - Negligence of the Home health aid due to her not recognizing her need to go to the hospital.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  - Advocate for pt to be in PT and OT to help regain and build up strength since she has not been out of the bed for the last few days and complains of overall fatigue.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
  - Case management to determine overall pt need to benefit health and safety, PT and OT to help regain strength, Diabetic educator to assess her knowledge and capabilities of own care.

Place your answers to these questions in the “**Unit 1: Overview CC dropdown**” 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.*