

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 the critical care nurse taking care of Margaret one of the concerns I would have for her would be the lack of support that this patient has at home. With everything going on with the patient such as not being able to get out of bed due illness the patient needs way more support than having a home health aide come in once a week. The patient's diet isn't the best with having take out meals that may add to her illness. The patient medical history is extensive and should require some further investigations if any of her symptoms are related to prior medical history. In addition with the lack of support the patient forgot the medications with the doses which could have been avoided with a medical professional being at home taking care of her.

- ▶ 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.
Ways in which I would communicate with her and the POA would be in layman's terms so that I wouldn't confuse her with medical jargon. I would assess what they already know about her condition and what questions they would have in regards to treatment. Topics that I would bring up would be what is going on with the patient and why they are being brought into the critical care unit. Another topic I would bring up would be what kind of treatment one would be doing for the patient's and the importance of each treatment and diagnostic that is going to be done.

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
The ethical issue that this case can present would include is confidentiality and moral distress as well. For confidentiality I would say since her friend is her POA one can run into some issues where the friend wanting to know about the patient's condition but if the patient is cognitively intact then we would have to see what is okay to be spoken with the POA so that we do not interfere with the patient's right. I would also say moral distress because one would have to see the patient's situation and may have to get more people involved such as case management if one see's that the patient living alone is not morally okay and see if maybe more help is needed at the home which

could cause some distress if the patient isn't wanting more help at home or has financial issues.

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

I would say along with the ethical principle of confidentiality a legal issue can be breaking HIPPA and making sure that the patient's information isn't put out there with the wrong person and making sure one knows what the patient would like to share. One also has to watch out for false imprisonment and make sure the patient is aware why they are at the hospital and what the reasoning is behind the treatment but it is ultimately up to the patient if they want to stay in the healthcare setting or not.

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

I would serve as an advocate for Margaret to make it aware of her situation at home and seek further assistance to see what resources there is out their for additional help. I will advocate if Margaret has any questions about her care or wants anything to be changed as well as I will advocate for her to see if we can get any dietary resources as well such as a consult with the dietician or myself to educate her on healthier choices out there that would benefit her in the long run. Involving the POA can also show a form of advocacy by including them in the plan of care and allowing them information, communication, and access to what the patient has going on.

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

Other Departments that I would involve in her care would be Case Management because of her living situation where there is not much support in the home and seeing if we can get home health to be with her more days out of the week. Dietician would also be involved to explore healthier dietary choices and affordable foods the patient could get. I would also get the physician involve to see what medications the patient would be started on based on the patient's medical history and home medications that they take.

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.