

## 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?
  - ▶ Infection due to chronic foley and not caring for it
  - ▶ Noncompliance with her medications
  - ▶ Poor diet which might worsen her condition
  - ▶ Many socioeconomic concerns including negligence by her POA
- ▶ 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 discuss many topics with her and her POA. One topic is the importance of knowing what medications you are taking and how much of each. This is important so we know if we need to adjust anything. Also, the importance of getting out of the house for more things than just appointments for the well-being of her mental health. Lastly, I would discuss the importance of a healthy and balanced diet due to her medical history.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
  - ▶ One ethical issue is that Margaret's POA is not caring for her in the way she should. The POA of a person should care about their safety and well-being. Margaret laid in bed for days with no one checking in on her. Also, no one knows how much medication she takes. She has no rides to appointments and does not go anywhere else. I believe Margaret needs a new POA who can care for her needs and look out for her In the way she deserves.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
  - ▶ A legal issue this case presents is that the home health aide is being paid to care for Margaret but is not doing her job. Margaret laid in her bed for days and the aide never mentioned anything to anyone. The aide also does not help with meals as they are supposed to and Margaret only eats takeout. This is a legal issue because Margaret's insurance is paying for this service and no service is being provided.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
  - ▶ I will serve as an advocate for Margaret by reaching out to services that I think would benefit her. Also, by confronting her POA and aide for not caring for her when it was most needed.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?

- ▶ Social work to discuss meal services, more frequent home health care, and ways to get out of the house besides for appointments
- ▶ Ethics committee to get her POA changed to someone who cares for her safety and well being

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.*