

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?

Overall concerns I have for this patient include her living at home at her age with her medical history, her nutrition is solely coming from take out, she has a history of hypertension, and those foods are known to have high sodium, concerned for her immobility – potential to develop delirium as stated in the power point or developing a dvt. Also concerned with her not getting out of the house and not knowing the dosages of her medications.

- ▶ 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 communicate with them in a very detailed manner, describing details of the plan of care, medications, etc due to the fact she is the only other person and the patient has no family.

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

An ethical issue this case presents is informed consent because she doesn't understand her medication information; informed consent requires full understanding so that could potentially be an issue.

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

I would say that a legal issue in this case could be the friend being the power of attorney instead of a family member, there could be a conflict of interest.

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

I would advocate for Margaret to have increased home health aide visits and to help with diet.

▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
I would involve dietary to improve nutrition, physical therapy to get her moving again, and case management.

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.