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 that I have include impaired mobility, infection, blood sugar control, impaired nutrition, impaired skin integrity, and access to basic needs along with support.

▶ 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.

Some ways that I would communicate with her and her POA include using open communication, active listening, using simple and clear communication, and having respect with empathy. Some topics that I would discuss include living conditions, access and quality of basic living needs, preventative measures, further details on history, management of disease, access to medications, and support systems.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

Some ethical issues within this case include medication management, access to quality care, safety, beneficence vs nonmaleficence, informed consent, and autonomy.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

Legal issues that could present in this case include informed consent, decision making, hospital acquired injury and/or infection, discharge planning, documentation, or scope of practice issues.

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

I will serve as an advocate by ensuring that the patient and POA receives clear communication and education on all information that involves the patient. Ensuring that there is an understanding of the situation. Advocating for the appropriate resources to be given along with proper medication

safety. Ensuring that the patient and POA receive support and respect along with quality care.

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

Other departments that I would involve in her care would include physical therapy, occupational therapy, case management, dietitian, possibly wound care, social worker, home health, and pharmacy.

Place your answers to these questions in the **"Unit 1: Overview CC dropbox" by 1/7/2026 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.