

## 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?** One concern that I have for her is that she could be septic based on her symptoms. She also could be having problems with her glucose. Another concern is that she is noncompliant with her medications which could cause health issues based on her health history.
- ▶ **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.** Topics that I would discuss with her POA are the patients code status, doses she takes of her medications, what exactly she would like her treatment plan to be, and what her preferred discharge plan is.
- ▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.** One issue that could be included in this case is that Margaret's wishes could not be respected while at the same time including her POA. She also could have a problem with access to healthcare and may not have adequate resources for the care that she requires.
- ▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.** One legal issue that could be involved in this case is mandatory reporting if they suspect neglect with the care she is receiving at home. There also could be an issue with medication reconciliation based on her lack of knowledge.
- ▶ **In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?** I will serve as an advocate for Margaret by making sure that she is a part of the care that she receives and her medical decisions. I would also make sure that she has a safe discharge plan.
- ▶ **What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?** Case management so that she has a safe discharge plan and proper transportation and physical therapy to help with mobility and gaining her strength back. I would also call pharmacy to see if they could help with her medications.

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.*