

## 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?  
I'm concerned about her fever, weakness, and Chronic foley which could indicate a UTI.
- ▶ 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 updates on the patient's status. Using terms that are understandable. Topics to discuss are diabetes control along with proper nutrition, proper foley care, the doses of her medications, having more support at home; maybe her friend, the POA, coming to visit more often or taking her out sometimes.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.  
Ethical issues are respecting patient autonomy specifically, freedom to choose and make one's own decisions, regardless of whether or not she has a POA, so long as she has the capacity to do so. Also, finding out the reason why she has a POA at 62. Can she not make her own decisions regarding her healthcare?
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.  
Looking into neglect. If the POA is a "friend", why is the patient only leaving her apartment to go see the doctor. And if this has been going on for three years, I'm sure the POA would be aware of this isolation taking place. This leads me to questioning the power of attorney's competency and credibility.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?  
I will advocate for consults she may need (listed below), communicate her needs to the team, and recommend a home health nurse in addition to the aide to meet her needs.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
Social worker to find out her home needs, dietician to take care of this restaurant take-out problem, PT/OT for her weakness, and maybe psych if showing signs of depression, but mostly because of the apparent social isolation.