

Case Study Questions

Yasmin Perez

- ▶ **As the critical care nurse caring for her, what overall concerns do you have?**
- ▶ Margaret is at high risk for life-threatening complications, including sepsis related to her chronic Foley catheter, uncontrolled diabetes, immobility, and infection. She requires close monitoring to prevent rapid deterioration, medication errors, delirium, pressure injuries, and complications related to poor nutrition and deconditioning.
- ▶ **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.**
- ▶ Communication should be patient- and family-centered, using clear and respectful language. I would assess Margaret's understanding and decision-making capacity while keeping her POA informed. Topics include her current condition, treatment plan, risks, code status, advanced directives, and early discharge planning due to her limited support system.
- ▶ **Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**
- ▶ Ethical issues include respecting autonomy while ensuring safety, beneficence and nonmaleficence in preventing harm, justice in access to care, and potential moral distress if discharge plans do not adequately address her safety needs.
- ▶ **Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**
- ▶ Legal issues include informed consent, confidentiality, verification of POA authority, prevention of negligence and malpractice, failure to rescue, and the nurse's responsibility to ensure a safe discharge plan.
- ▶
- ▶ **In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?**
- ▶ I will advocate by closely monitoring deterioration, preventing medication errors, involving her POA in care decisions, initiating early discharge planning, and using the chain of command to address safety concerns.
- ▶ **What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?**
- ▶ I would involve case management and social work for discharge planning and support needs, pharmacy for medication reconciliation, nutrition for nutritional support, physical and occupational therapy for mobility, infectious disease for infection management, and wound care to prevent pressure injuries.