

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? The patient is by themselves. Only has a caretaker once a week. She doesn't leave the house until she has an appointment. She takes numerous medications, but she is unaware of their dosages and does not carry them with her. She always eats fast food.
- 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 ask them if they had any questions and have a conversation with them about her health and how to improve it in time to come. Given that she only eats fast food, I would discuss her diet with them. I would discuss her increasing her mobility and movement with them. If the POA is unable to visit her often to check on her, I would also discuss with them the option of hiring a home health nurse who can visit more than once a week. I would also discuss with them how she could better monitor her dosages and find a better way to stay on top of her medications.
- Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
Because the POA is not a family member, she might not be able to make the best choices for Margaret's health. She has no family. She only has a visitor once a week and lives alone. She is unaware of her medicine dosages.
- Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
She could possibly be being mistreated or neglected by her POA? She only leaves the house for doctor's appointments, and no one has seen her in a week.
- In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
Helping her in finding a home health nurse who can provide her with care more frequently than once a week. Helping her in figuring out how to stay safe at home while she's by herself. Help her to be more conscious of her medications. Helping her to get suggestions for improved nutritional habits.
- What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
To assist her in making dietary adjustments, I would include a nutritionist in her care. To figure out her prescriptions and how she can best take them, I would also consult a pharmacist. I would work with home health to schedule more frequent at-home care for her. To make her stronger and better equipped to go about safely at home when she is by

herself, I would involve PT and OT. To ensure that the patient is safe and receiving the appropriate treatment, I would consult social workers.

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.