

## 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?  
My overall concern is what is causing the fatigue, weaknesses and fever and her not getting out of bed for several days. As well as her at home medication list.

▶ 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 from the start of her admission to the hospital. I would also talk with her POA as soon as possible to try in get more information on home medications. I would also encourage both of them to state there concerns or needs at the time. I would discuss topics about more frequent home health visits or some type of home if interested. I would also discuss the importance of medication complacence. I would also encourage more frequent physical activity that can be tolerated.

▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

The ethical issue would be confidentiality because her friend is listed as her POA. She is conscious and can make her own medical decision as well as having her own privacy to her own health.

▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

The legal issues in this case would be negligence as her home health care only comes once a week to help with some of her daily living tasks. As her daily living activities become hard, they should have been more present at her home.

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

I will advocate for her to have more help at home by having home health visit more frequently. As well as helping to push PT/OT to work with her even after her stay. I will also get her a case manager to help with all this as well.

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

The other departments I would involve are case management, physical therapy, occupational therapy, dietitian, and patient advocacy. I would involve case management and patient advocacy to help the patient find care when discharged as well as finding adequate care for her. I would involve physical therapy and occupational therapy to help with her gait, to hopefully restore her strength, and to find an adequate assistive device. I would involve a dietitian because her home diet

doesn't sound like it meeting her health need so involving them could help her find a healthy eating habit.

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.*