

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?

Current status of the patient, extensive medical history, lives alone, minimal support, minimal transportation, uses a walker at home, many medications, does not know medication doses

- ▶ 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 be sure to use communication that is clear, direct and easy to understand, while making sure that I am detailed with the information I am giving. I would also utilize the teach-back method to make sure both the patient and the POA understood what was explained to them. Some topics I would discuss include education about her medications, resources for transportation, safety measures to take at home for her use of a walker and other resources to help assist her with her ADLs.

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.

Minimal transportation leading to isolation, home health aide visit only once a week leading to limited personal hygiene, self care, and a risk for declining mental health.

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.

Potential for negligence due to only having a visit from a home health aide once a week

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

I would consult social services to help find resources available for her such as transportation, home health care, assisted living/ nursing homes

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

Physical therapy to help her improve her ability to get around the house safely, especially with the use of a walker, dietitian to assess her level of nutrition and need for dietary changes, social services to help find resources available to her.

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.