

## 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 am concerned with her living alone and having no family members to help her especially when she is experiencing severe weakness and cannot even get out of bed. It concerns me that she utilizes a private ambulance service for her doctor's appointments and only gets out of the house when going to her appointments for the last 3 years indicating that she has no transportation available to go anywhere including the grocery store to get groceries. I am also concerned with the fact that she does not have her home medications with her and especially concerned with her not knowing the doses of her home medications which can indicate noncompliance with her home medications.
- ▶ 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 her and her POA by involving both of them in the conversations and the plan of care. It is important to remember that since her friend is her POA then she is allowed to make the healthcare decisions for Margaret if she is unable to do so for herself as long as her wishes are being followed. I would discuss with both of them the plan of care individualized to Margaret to meet her needs in order to provide the best patient care possible.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.  
An ethical issue this case presents could be going against the ethical principle of autonomy. If her friend is her only contact and her POA, then Margaret is not necessarily having the freedom to choose and make her own decisions.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.  
A legal issue this case presents with could be patient rights. All patients have the right to be treated with dignity & respect, privacy, decision-

making, confidentiality, access to health records, and the right to refuse treatment.

- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?  
I could serve as an advocate for Margaret by providing culturally competent care, beginning discharge planning on admission during the assessment, and by respecting and supporting the basic rights and beliefs of Margaret's.
- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
I would use an interdisciplinary team involving physicians, nurses, social workers, case management, dietician, pharmacist, PT, and home health to work as a team to provide the best care.

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.*