

## 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?  
As the critical care nurse caring for Margaret, overall concerns that I have are some sort of infection or even sepsis due to the fever and weakness also with the patient having a chronic indwelling catheter and being diabetic her immune system is already compromised. Another concern I have is the patient has not been mobile in the past few days and has not seen a Physician in three years, my concern is she is not managing her diabetes, hypertension, hyperlipidemia, dwarfism, and the foley catheter with her Physician regularly.
- ▶ 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.  
While communicating with Margaret and her POA I would discuss making regular doctor appointments and following up as Physicians orders, providing proper hygiene with the foley catheter, proper medication administration at home, and discuss the need for assistance with her healthcare. While she is being hospitalized topics, I would discuss with her at this time would be proper administration of her insulin and the importance of maintaining her diabetes. As well as measuring her blood pressure regularly and taking the prescribed medications for her hypertension. Another topic I would discuss would be providing proper care to her peri area and foley indwelling catheter.
- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.  
The ethical issue in this case is Autonomy vs. Safety, Margaret lives alone, has a hard time getting around her house, little to no access to healthcare, and has minimal support, but has been living by herself and has been unable to get out of bed for days.
- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.  
The legal issues present in this case are medication safety with Margaret does not know the doses of the medications she takes and not having them with her. Another legal issue that may be present is informed consent, with the patient coming in with a fever and weakness and possibility of sepsis she may not fully aware or understand what she has consented to for it to be valid.
- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?

To advocate for Margaret, I would call the HCP about the signs of sepsis and the unknown doses of medications to start medications and start treating the infection. I would also ask the doctor for an order to remove and replace the indwelling foley catheter with the unknown how long it has been since it was changed last.

- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?  
Other departments I would get involved in her care would be pharmacy for the unknown doses of medications and insulin. A social worker or case manager to help her with making doctor appointments, assisting with psychosocial needs with her living alone with little support, and help her with finding community resources that will benefit her. I would also involve Physical and Occupational therapy with the weakness and no mobility in the past few days. I would notify infectious control to guide antibiotics and assist with managing the infection.

Place your answers to these questions in the “**Unit 1: Overview CC dropdown**” 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.*