

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?
 - ▶ 3 Years of Inactivity + Bed Rotting for Several Day
 - ▶ Baths qWeekly (Assuming she doesn't take initiative to bath or freshen up other than when the POA is present)
 - ▶ Neglected Diabetes Mellitus due to the consistent routine of meals consumed from Take-Out Restaurants. (Assuming these meals are not within the recommended serving sizes—or that she is gluttonous and consumes more food than required to achieve satiety)
 - ▶ HTN

- ▶ 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.
 - ▶ What concerns she has regarding her Current Health + Lifestyle Status?
 - ▶ Address her Medical History + Management of them all (HTN, Hyperlipidemia, Diabetes Mellitus)
 - ▶ Empathetically + Strategically, explain to her that at the rate she is going with her Current Lifestyle Choices in combination with her Neglected Medical History increases her Risk of Chronic Diseases (Ex: Disabilities, Heart Diseases, Strokes, Mental Health Issues, etc.)
 - ▶ Educate + Provide her with the necessary tools, numbers, and care plans to reduce her risks + increase her livelihood

- ▶ Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.
 - ▶ Neglect
 - ▶ Healthcare Accessibility (Ex: Transportation, Insurance)
 - ▶ Financial Instability due to 1x Week POA Visits

- ▶ Discuss the legal issues this case presents.
 - ▶ Malpractice
 - ▶ Negligence

- ▶ In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?
 - ▶ Allowing her to express her concerns + Collaborate in the making of her Care Plan—to ensure her Autonomy
 - ▶ Transparency in regard to her Medical Information + Treatment Options + Care Plans—The Risks v. Benefits of each option

- ▶ What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?
 - ▶ PT/OT due to 3+ Years of inactivity
 - ▶ Dietaryitian due to Take-Out Food assuming 3x Daily
 - ▶ Psychology + Psychiatry due to Loneliness + POA being her only contact listing and most likely being her only socialization qWeekly
 - ▶ Endocrinologist due to neglect in regard to her Diabetes Mellitus diagnosis

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.