

Unit 1 Critical Care Nursing: Case Study Assignment

▶ **1.) As the critical care nurse caring for her what overall initial concerns do you have?**

My initial concerns include the status of Margaret's vitals, if she has taken her medications today, the status of her blood sugar and if she has eaten today as she has a history of diabetes, and her urine output.

▶ **2.) 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.**

When caring for Margaret, I would tell her that I noticed she only has one emergency contact person listed who is her friend and also happens to be her POA. It appears that no POA decisions need to be made at this time, but I would ask Margaret if she would like me to contact her friend to make her aware of her current health status.

▶ **3.) Discuss the ethical issues this case presents.**

If Margaret's health were to continue to decline and she was in a state in which she could not adequately make decisions for herself, her friend and POA would need to be contacted to make said decisions. This could present ethical issues in the event that the nurse caring for Margaret as well as other healthcare workers involved in her case did not agree with the decisions Margaret's POA decided on. Therefore, this is a reminder on the importance of evaluating your own feelings when caring for a patient in a situation such as Margaret's as well as practicing ethical principles such as autonomy, veracity, confidentiality and justice.

▶ **4.) Discuss the legal issues this case presents.**

A potential legal issue in this case could involve confidentiality and violating HIPAA. If Margaret does not want her POA contacted initially, then according to HIPAA, it is the nurse's duty to protect Margaret and follow her wishes. In the event that Margaret was no longer in a state to make decisions for herself, then her POA could be contacted.

▶ **5.) In what ways will you serve as an advocate for Margaret?**

To advocate for Margaret, I would continually assess not only her physical health, but her emotional and mental health as well. This would involve discovering if she has any specific religious preferences and whether or not she has a Will in place.

▶ **6.) What other departments would you involve in her care, and why?**

Another department that should be involved in Margaret's care is a Social Worker. This professional could help Margaret determine if she has a Will and if not, they could help her put a Will into place. A Social Worker could also make sure that Margaret is still comfortable with having her friend as her POA.