

Lecture 1 : Critical Care Nursing

Concept of Critical Care Nursing:

- Crisis
- Emergency
- Serious
- Requiring immediate action
- Comprehensive and continuous observation
- Total dependent

Critical Care Nursing:

- The care of seriously ill clients from point of injury or illness until discharge from intensive care .
- Deals with human responses to life threatening problems -trauma /major surgery.
- Comprehensive, specialized and individualized nursing care services which individualized nursing care services which are offered to patients , with life threatening conditions and their families.

Critical Care Nursing include :

1. continuous and rapid assessment: close monitoring and respond to treatment .
2. Providing appropriate nursing interventions.
3. Documenting and reporting .
4. Observing mental state of family state.
5. Maintaining a spiritual attitude .

Critical Care Nurse: Definition

Critical care nurses work in the intensive care unit (or ICU) of a hospital assisting critically ill patients. **Critically ill patients** have life-threatening medical problems that require frequent monitoring, and they generally need tubes to assist with breathing as well as medications to

regulate their blood pressure. The ICU could not function without critical care nurses.

Critically ill client:

- At high risk for actual or potential life-threatening health problems
- More ill
- Required more intensive and careful nursing care.

Classification of Critical Care patients :

Level 0 : normal ward care

Level 1: at risk of deteriorating , support critical care team.

Level 2 : more observation or intervention ,single failing organ or post-operative care.

Level 3; advanced respiratory support or basic respiratory support ,multiorgan failure .

High dependency care :

1. Coronary care units (CCU)
2. Renal high dependency unit (HDU)
3. Post-operative recovery room
4. Accident and emergency departments (A&E)
5. Intensive care units (ICU)

Goals of Critical Care:

1. Towards the survival of the critical ill patients and restoring quality of life .
2. Restoring optimal physiological ,psychological, social and spiritual potential .
3. Helping the families of the critically ill patients in coping with crises .

Principles of Critical Care :

1. Continuous monitoring and treatment.
2. High intensity therapies and interventions.
3. Expert monitoring and efficiency .
4. Alert to early manifestation of other organ failure.
5. Recognition of parameters referring to progress or deteriorating.

Role of Critical Nurse:

1. Care provider : Care for clients who are very ill, help the client to obtain necessary care and supporting the basic needs .
2. comprehensive direct care to the patient and family.
3. Educator: based on patient's needs and severity of condition.
4. Manager: coordinates the care provided by various health care.
5. Advocate: protects the patient's rights .
6. Responsible for making life-and death decision.
7. At high risk of injury or illness from possible exposure to infections .
8. Communication skill is of optimal importance.

Patient assessment:

- Know : medical history, social history, medical interventions.
- See : airway patency, pallor, sweating, mental state, facial expression, general condition state.
- Find : respiratory care, adequacy of oxygenation, pulse, blood pressure, urine output, conscious level, monitor for changes in any of the above .

A, B, C, D, E Models :

1. Airway: patient
2. Breathing: respiratory rate
3. Circulation: pallor , hemorrhage
4. Disability: altered conscious level

5. Expose to examine: unseen haemorrhage , wound leakage.

Immediate care :

1. Administer oxygen via face mask
2. Maintain client safety
3. Maintain fluid replacement
4. Monitor cardiac instability
5. Monitor urine output hourly
6. Arterial blood gas analysis
7. Referral to critical care

Subsequent care:

1. Monitor continuously
2. Position : upright
3. Conscious level
4. Intravenous therapy
5. Medication :Analgesia and antibiotics
6. Nil by mouth blood sugar levels
7. Oral and tube feeding
8. Document client's response

Investigations :

- **Hematology**
- **Biochemistry**
- **X-ray**
- **CT. scan, MRI**

Clinical mapping

- 24 hour assessment 
- Individualized plan 
- Monitoring 
- Medication 
- Evaluation 
- Intervention 
- Collaborative care 

Critically ill client

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