INTRODUCTION
TO CRITICAL CARE NURSING

Presented by: Omar AL-Rawajfah, RN, PhD
Lecture Outlines

- What is critical care nursing
- Major skills of critical care nurse
- Changing role of the critical care nurse
- Issues related critical care
Critical Care Nursing

- Specialty area of nursing that involve caring for patients and families who are undergoing or potentially life-threatening illness or injury

- Critical care environment needs nurse with high level of special skills such as critical thinking, decision making, competent nursing skills
Special Skill of Critical Care Nurse

- Critical thinking skills
  - Using nursing process as guide for problem solving
  - affective components: confidence, contextual perspective, creativity, flexibility, inquisitiveness, intellectual ability, intuition, open-mindedness, perseverance, and reflection.
  - cognitive skills: analyzing, applying standards, discriminating, information seeking, logical reasoning, predicting, & transforming knowledge

- Collaborative skills
- Delegation skills
  - Clinical model: use AUP
  - Nonclinical model: AUP perform non-nursing tasks
- Computer skills
The Synergy Model

• Synergy is an evolving phenomenon that occurs when individuals work together in mutually enhancing ways toward a common goal.
The Synergy Model

- **Synergy**: results when the needs and characteristics of a patient are matched with a nurse's competencies

- **Patient Characteristics**
  - Resiliency
  - Vulnerability
  - Stability
  - Complexity
  - Resource availability
  - Participation in care
  - Participation in decision making
  - Predictability
The Synergy Model

- **Synergy:** results when the needs and characteristics of a patient are matched with a nurse's competencies

- **Nurse Competencies**
  - Clinical Judgment
  - Advocacy and Moral Agency
  - Caring Practices
  - Collaboration
  - Systems Thinking
  - Response to Diversity
  - Facilitation of Learning
  - Clinical Inquiry (Innovator/Evaluator)
Changing Role of the Critical Care Nurse

- **Staff nurse role**
  - Knowledge
  - Skilled
  - Decision-maker

- **Advance practice role**
  - Clinical nurse specialist (CNS)
    - Educator
    - Researcher
    - Consultant
    - Manager
Changing Role of the Critical Care Nurse

• Advance practice role
  – Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP)
    • Acts autonomously
    • Needs well developed skills
  – Case manager
    • facilitate the patient’s movement through the system
  – Outcome manager
    • Quality assurance issues
Issues Related to Critical Care

• Advance directives and End-of-life decisions
  – Self-determination
  – Family decision-making status
• Resuscitation
  – Implied consent: all hospitalized patient would want CPR
  – “Do Not Resuscitate” (DNR)
• Informed consent
  – Diagnosis
  – Treatment
  – Risk of treatment
  – Anticipated benefits
  – Alternative treatment
  – Prognosis of treatment
Issues Related to Critical Care

• Brain death
  – Whole-brain death “the permanent, irreversible cessation of functioning of all of brain areas”
  • Complete loss of consciousness
  • Absent corneal, oculovestibular, oropharyngeal ventilatory reflexes

• Organ donation
  – Heart & lungs
  – Kidneys
  – Liver
  – Corneas
Electronic Resources

- http://www.medi-smart.com/criticalcare.htm
- http://www.healcentral.org/
- http://www.americanheart.org
- http://library.med.utah.edu/kw/ECG/index.html
- http://www.medicineppt.com/resources/

Contact information
- Instructor: Dr. Omar AL-Rawajfah, RN, PhD
- Phone No.: Office: 02-629-7000, Ext-2859
- Email: rawajfah@aabu.edu.jo