Prevention in the Critical Care Unit Learning Objectives

Overview of Stress Ulceration
- Distinguish between peptic ulceration and stress ulceration
- Recognize the clinical presentation of stress ulceration
- Identify risk factors for stress ulceration in the critical care setting
- Describe the pathogenesis of stress ulceration

Prevention of Stress Ulceration
- Recognize candidates for stress ulcer prevention
- Utilize pharmacologic approaches and enteral nutrition for prevention of stress ulceration
- Identify potential complications of measures to prevent stress ulceration

Overview of Venous Thromboembolism
- Recognize the relationship between deep venous thrombosis and pulmonary embolism
- Identify risk factors for venous thromboembolism
- Utilize D-dimer measurement appropriately in the diagnostic evaluation of venous thromboembolism

Prevention of Venous Thromboembolism
- Identify patients at particular risk for venous thromboembolism in the critical care unit
- Balance the risk of bleeding and the risk of thrombosis in decisions about prophylaxis for venous thromboembolism
- Understand the modalities for venous thromboembolism prophylaxis in moderate and high risk patients
- Recognize patients at high risk for bleeding in whom prophylactic anticoagulation should not be used

Prevention of Ventilator-Associated Pneumonia
- List criteria for diagnosing ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Identify risk factors for ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Understand measures that decrease the risk of ventilator-associated pneumonia
- Utilize a “prevention bundle” to prevent ventilator-associated pneumonia

Prevention of Catheter-Related Urinary Tract Infections
- Recognize risk factors for development of a catheter-related urinary tract infection
- Avoid inappropriate use of urinary tract catheters in the critical care setting
- Understand appropriate management of the urinary catheter drainage system
- Recognize inappropriate use of antimicrobial therapy to prevent catheter-related urinary tract infections
Hand Hygiene

- Recognize the importance of hand hygiene
- Utilize hand hygiene at all the necessary times
- Understand the appropriate technique for hand washing
- Differentiate the relative values of alcohol-based cleansers vs. soap and water