

On October 20, 2020, I had my third shift on the NICU floor. I am definitely starting to feel more comfortable with providing care to the infants and it is a lot easier to get through 12 hour shifts compared to my very first clinical shift. Around 1830, my preceptor and I were going over important details to mention for when I gave my handoff report to the night nurse. All of a sudden, a bunch of the day nurses as well as night nurses, including my nurse, started rushing over to the other pod to help with a newborn infant that had severe ascites. There were so many people huddled in that area trying to get everything in order to help stabilize the baby. Doctors, nurses from both day and night shift, respiratory therapists, etc were all working together. I mostly just stood off to the side and observed what everyone else was doing. I did not do much besides help the doctors gown up while everyone else was busy doing other things. My first two shifts with my preceptor were pretty calm and nothing major happened. Although I was not happy about the baby being in so much distress, I was interested in witnessing and observing an emergency situation on this unit since I have not had the chance to do so yet and I wanted to see all of the different ways that I could actively participate and help next time something serious like this happened. I felt like I had a lot of adrenaline running through my veins but I also felt very calm at the same time because I was feeding off of how calm everyone else in the room was. They were all hyper-focused on the newborn baby and as scary as it was, I almost could not tell if anyone else was somewhat in a panic to help the baby in a sufficient amount of time. As I said previously, I did not feel happy to witness a newborn baby in distress, it was more so about the fact that I am eager to help if I am ever in this situation again. I want to be able to have a better understanding of what to expect and to remain calm just like everyone else. I am not sure if emergency situations are always that calm, but even during an emergency situation that I witnessed while in the ED back in IM7, everyone in that room was also very calm and just worked together to get the job done. I think some positive outcomes about this event were definitely how well and effective the communication was within the staff. Everyone has a part to do and if anyone was just standing around, they would jump in and help where they could, such as grabbing supplies or documenting important information. I admired everyone's willingness to do their part to help save the child's life. I think something that was difficult was the fact that no one really knew exactly how or why the baby had such severe ascites, and they had to be careful with how much fluid they were going to drain from the abdomen. The baby was less than an hour old and the main concern was just making sure we didn't allow the baby to become un-stabilized. Overall, I felt some growth within myself after getting the chance to be involved in that situation. In past clinicals during previous modules, I always just felt like I was in the way and did not know how to help, and honestly was too afraid to think that someday I would have to step in and do my part to help. Things are definitely starting to feel more real and although I don't quite yet have a full idea of what it's like as a certified RN, I am grateful for these opportunities because they help ease me in a little smoother and I looked forward to being an active participant in saving someone's life whether it is a newborn baby or an elderly client. I learned so much from this situation just by watching and I can't wait to start being more involved in patient care.