

SICU Reflection

My rotation at the SICU consisted of many learning opportunities. On my first day, I had a patient who had an open colectomy and was on a ventilator. I was excited about this because ventilation and ostomy/wound care aren't something I've had an opportunity to work with in previous clinicals. The last time I saw an endotracheal tube was in Module 2 and I felt petrified when she suctioned thinking that she was harming the patient in some way. I feel better now that I know how ventilators/tubes function, how to suction, provide oral care and signs to watch out for if something is wrong. I know I can't practice everything but having the chance to do wound care and assessing an ileostomy is important since it might be something that comes up frequently in my career. In addition, I learned a lot of time management skills from my Nurse. She had two busy patients, but she was still able to get everything done in time due to planning out the day, organization and good delegation.

My second day consisted of more stable patients. I was able to practice some skills and I am once again starting to feel more confident administering IV medication, blood draws, and tube feedings. In both patients I had communication barriers, since one had dementia/hard of hearing while the other one didn't speak English. It made me realize the importance of using your resources such as a viscera or a family member to talk to them since they still need to be aware of their care. It did show me that a weakness of mine is that I don't talk loud enough or communicate as frequently as I should. I'm glad I became aware of this so I can work on it during Clinicals.

This week in clinicals was eye opening. It makes me realize I still have a lot to improve on, but I know that I truly just need more practice and experience taking care of patients to overcome that self-doubt and uncertainty I have in myself.