

Reflection of IM8 Preceptorship

Description: I performed 10 shifts on S5 at Covenant Medical Center for IM8. I followed my preceptor and another nurse during these shifts. I performed several nursing skills from medication administration to blood administration. I performed blood draw sticks every shift and helped with care of J-tubes, tracheotomy, and foley insertions. I learned how to take admissions and give report in a busy hospital setting. I improved my charting, time management, and assessment skills.

Feelings: I felt nervous in the beginning of this preceptorship. I was thinking that I feel unsure of my skills and decisions for a soon to be nurse. This made me doubt myself and feel discouraged. My preceptor was encouraging and emphasized that repetition will be key in my development of skills. The outcome was much better than I had expected. I do feel more confident and I wish that I could do more shifts to feel even better. The most important feeling about this preceptorship is learning that I can do this and have the knowledge I need to succeed.

Evaluation: The good thing about this preceptorship was having an amazing preceptor. My preceptor made this a positive experience for me and I am grateful for this experience. The bad thing about this experience was feeling overwhelmed and embarrassed over forgotten knowledge. It was easy to work with the nurses on this floor. The teamwork is great, and I had several nurses offer to me or ask if I was doing alright or need any help. The difficult part of this experience is fear in general. Fear of messing up medications or documentation and jeopardizing my license. Several of my skills improved immensely and I learned how to chart and manage my time. I am pleased with the outcome, not everything went as expected but I learned something every shift. Working with other nurses showed me how everyone finds their own way to get things done.

Analysis: There is a lot I have learned in nursing school, but the clinical setting and hands on approach has been most beneficial for me. By performing these skills with repetition, I have improved with speed and confidence. With the repetition and speed comes extra need for caution. I think it would be easy to get careless and make a med error due to rushed time in the med room. As a nurse, my most important concern is patient safety. I believe if I remember to keep this in my mind always, then it will make things like med errors uncommon.

Conclusion: This situation could have been made better if I had more clinical time. More time at clinicals has made for more confidence, better communication and better skills. I could have been more prepared in the beginning by having a clear understanding of the disease process and meds and not focusing so much on skills. I have learned that as important as the EMR and history are for patient knowledge so is talking to the patient. I have learned so much by just talking to the patient and family versus reading a long history.

Action Plan: I know that if I arrive at the hospital on time or early, and look up my patient's labs, history, and medications that I will have a greater understanding of patient needs during report. That is what I would do differently now. I would get there early to look up everything I need to know beforehand so I can be better prepared for patient needs. This will be a great lesson to continue to use in the future as a nurse. This can be applied to almost anything in life. Come to work prepared, on time, and with the right attitude. By having a more prepared knowledge and good attitude you are setting yourself up for a good shift. This will help me with many challenges I will face in the future as a nurse.