

Covenant School of Nursing Reflective Practice

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| <p>Step 1 Description</p> <p>In this scenario, I acted as the nurse receiving a patient post appendectomy. The patient had acute appendicitis with rupture and was admitted to the ER, later to be admitted to the medical surgical unit. I received her from the PACU and upon examination found her incision site to be profusely bleeding when to had had no drainage and a new clean bandage previously. I reported to her doctor the change in her status and my concerns with her antibiotic course and its contributions to the bleeding. We were working to find a solution. The patient's vitals and pain were otherwise stable.</p> | <p>Step 4 Analysis</p> <p>I think in this case, as a new nurse it would be really important to welcome the perspectives of my colleagues especially my charge nurse who has seen and experienced more than I have and has likely dealt with similar situations and can offer guidance. I think that there is always space to improve and learn from other and that I also always have something valuable to pass on. I think this was a good chance for me to refresh myself on surgical complications, something that we focused on last module. It is a good reminder to always stay current in my studies and that everything we learn is important.</p> |
| <p>Step 2 Feelings</p> <p>Going into the scenario I felt confident that I was well informed of my patient's status and had the knowledge to care for her. I was concerned for her once we identified her bleeding and did my best to ease her and her husbands concerns when they noticed the magnitude of it. Most importantly, I felt that she would be well taken care of and our interprofessional healthcare team would take care to remedy the situation and keep her healthy and get her on the road to recovery.</p> | <p>Step 5 Conclusion</p> <p>If I could make this situation better, I might have a little bit longer with my patients to continue working with the doctor and seeing what we were able to do to address the patient's needs. I learned just how important it is to be thorough when receiving a patient post surgery. I can never just take report and trust the nurse's word, because something might have, and in this instance did, change, or something could be missed. You always want to do your own assessments, you are accountable for every aspect of your patient.</p> |
| <p>Step 3 Evaluation</p> <p>I felt that this event was neither easy nor difficult. With my limited experience in the clinical setting I thought that it might well reflect a normal day in a nursing career. I felt that I was able to address the situation and decide on what was most important to get done and how we might achieve those goals that I set for my patient. I was not expecting her to have as much bleeding as she did, however I think that it is good to be exposed to postoperative complications that aren't necessarily extreme, but are possibly fairly common.</p> | <p>Step 6 Action Plan</p> <p>Overall, I felt that this was a good learning scenario, I was given the opportunity to work on something new to me. As I said previously I now realize the importance of keeping current on my education and refreshing past lessons. I think that is one of the biggest takeaways from this. I also want to continue getting more and more familiar with medications, I know that that comes in time, but I think if I am able to readily identify more medications I will also be aware of how they might affect a specific patient or specific condition and I can act more quickly. Possibly identify a risk before administering anything.</p> |

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