

Sophie Marcelain

Clinical 1/5/2021

Today at clinical my patient was brought in due to being found unconscious after doing meth on the 1st. After a head CT was done, it was found that they had an intracranial bleed, so a craniotomy was done to repair the bleed. My patient was on the ventilator set to CPAP settings, had an arterial line, and was being tube feed. My nurse and I performed several neurological assessments on the patient throughout the day and found that the pupils were slightly reactive and equal. My patient had a gag and cough reflex which was tested with suctioning. I got to sample blood from the arterial line to test the glucose level, which I thought was very interesting. I suctioned the patient, gave several meds through the tube feeding, and hung several IV fluids and medications. The patient was hypertensive throughout the shift, so we gave several blood pressure medications to try and get it down. While I was there, I got to see the doctors come in on rounds and they decided that tomorrow they would put in a trach and PEG tube. The other patient that my nurse had came in with severe leg pain and it was found that the left leg was dying due to no blood flow. The patient's leg was completely cool to the touch, discolored, and there was no pulse present even with doppler use. The doctor explained to the patient that since they already had several stents put in to try and improve blood flow, and it was no longer working, the only other option was an above the knee amputation. The patient ended up agreeing to the surgery and they made arrangements for it to occur tomorrow. I gave the patient some morphine with my nurse to help control the pain. Overall, I really enjoyed the day. I learned a lot, and got to do several new skills that I had only seen in videos, like suctioning and sampling blood from the arterial line.