

Final Preceptor Reflection

My preceptor was Sergio Maul in the Pediatric ED. On my first shift he gave me a tour of the unit and explained where the med rooms were, what each cart was for and the trauma rooms. From the beginning, Sergio was very welcoming and informative. He introduced me to the staff on the unit which included both the nurses and the doctors. I instantly felt welcome. With the first few patients, Sergio went over how he did his initial assessments and how in the ED they do focused assessments. He helped me understand how to narrow down the questions I ask to pertain to the signs and symptoms of the patient and which focused assessment I was completing. He also showed me how to properly document the assessments, vitals and patient safety rounding.

Once I became more confident in my assessment skills, Sergio let me do the assessment on my own with him in the room and then I would give a short report to him as if I was giving a hand off report. I feel like this helped me gain confidence later when I did give hand off report to the night shift nurse. Once I began conducting my own assessment of the patients, I was also able to document them myself. Sergio helped guide me on the necessary things to document and what went under specific tabs. Once I became more confident in my assessment and my documentation, I was able to call report to a nurse on the floor for a patient who was getting admitted. I was nervous but Sergio practiced with me before I called.

After the first few patients I witnessed with Sergio, he told me I could take the “5” patients, which were nonemergent patients. I was able to go in and do the assessment on my own, type up my assessment and then Sergio went over the patient with me. I was then able to discharge the patients and provide education to the patients and family on my own. My confidence definitely grew from doing this because I felt like I was independent enough but also had guidance if needed.

Throughout my ten clinical shifts I auscultated lung sounds, started an IV on a teenager and a child, performed numerous nasal swabs, observed bone reductions, observed x-rays, observed an intubation, observed a conscious sedation, assisted in ortho glass splint application, assisted in lab draws, pregnancy tests, h. pylori tests, observed and assisted in the transfer process of psychiatric patients, observed and assisted in SANE exams, observed and assisted in the discharge process of patients, and assisted with medication administration.

The Pedi ED unit as a whole is a very welcoming place who displays phenomenal teamwork. Each time there was an ambulance who brought a patient, each team member was helping the nurse either get vitals, take report, print patient labels or help draws labs and start an IV. The staff embraces a learning environment and encourages students to participate and practice their skills hands on when possible. Each staff member takes the time to educate and help the students improve. I would definitely work on this unit just based on the atmosphere that the staff creates and the high level of care they provide each of their patients.

Sergio was an amazing preceptor who was always encouraging and always made me feel comfortable to ask questions. He helped me improve my confidence when talking to patients and giving patient education. Whenever a new skill was introduced, he would take the time to go over it and explain why it was done that way. I’m not as nervous to be a new nurse because I was able to be autonomous in my preceptor but also felt that I had support if I didn’t know the next step or was scared.