

Madison Gage

Reflection 2

My nursing school journey is coming to a close, I finished my last nursing school clinical ever the other day. It is surreal to know that in a few short weeks I will be a nurse. My clinical preceptorship has bridged the gap from student nurse to a new graduate. Towards the end of my preceptorship, I was providing total patient care. Of course, I still had my preceptor right there but, in a way that is how it's always going to be. As a nurse you can always go to someone if you are unsure and can always ask questions. I now feel so much more comfortable being "THE" nurse, and I'm more confident in my skills. One skill I really got to work on was patient education. Especially being in the emergency room, good patient education can keep a patient from returning. I got to go over almost every discharge packet with every patient, explained what they had been seen for, and ways that it can be prevented in the future, or ways to recognize it sooner and when to seek medical care. I also got more comfortable with communicating with physicians, I don't know why I used to see them as scary people that will just yell at you for everything. Not only did I get comfortable with talking to physicians but also other nurses. At shift change I would have to give report on at least one of my patients. I was super nervous the first time I had to do it, but it wasn't even a problem for me towards the end. One thing I still need to work on is phone report, for some reason that is still giving me a bit of anxiety. Something that I was super proud of was anticipating patient care. Based on a patient's presentation I would suspect what the doctor would want us to do, and I was right a lot of the time. It made me feel like I know what is going on, and that all the knowledge I learned in school is coming into fruition.

Overall, my clinical preceptorship has made me feel so prepared when I start my job in October. Of course, I have a lot to learn, but I'm so much more confident in what I do know. In a way I'm also more comfortable with asking questions, nurses have to do it every day. A repeating phrase I hear is to be more afraid of a nurse that doesn't ask any questions than one that asks many. I'm excited to see what my future as a nurse holds, and my preceptorship has really prepared me for that next step.