

Midterm Clinical Reflection

I am currently working on the intermediate critical care unit for my preceptorship, and I am responsible for all of the nursing tasks for each of my preceptor's patients. My preceptor has been teaching me how to chart, how to view the current care plan for the patient, and how to solidify nursing skills (such as drawing blood, giving medications, etc.) Before beginning my preceptorship, I was very nervous to assume total patient care for patients. I felt overwhelmed at the thought of having to do all of the things that nurses do on a daily basis. I was also terrified that I didn't have the necessary knowledge to care for these patients and that my preceptor would think badly of me. So far, I have felt the opposite. I feel like the pieces of the puzzle are falling into place. I am gaining so much more out of these 12 hour clinical shifts than I feel like I have throughout the entire program. My preceptor has guided my learning and assisted me with thinking like a nurse and making clinical decisions based on nursing judgement. I also feel like my preceptor has been more than welcoming towards me and has done a great job walking me through each task and decision.

I believe the most important feeling I have towards my preceptorship is a new sense of confidence. The idea of becoming a nurse and having patients rely on me for their care is slowly but surely starting to become more of a reality. Although it is difficult and overwhelming to orient myself to an entirely new environment, I believe I am doing an okay job so far. It is mentally, emotionally and physically draining, but each day I leave clinical, I feel as if I have learned so much about the profession. I am also very thankful that my preceptorship takes place on the floor that I will be working on when I graduate because I am getting to know everyone and getting to see what type of patients I will be caring for when I'm on my own.

Although I am one of the few who is doing their preceptorship on their own unit, I feel confident that all of my classmates are gaining so much out of their preceptorship – regardless of what unit they are on. Everyone that I’ve talked to about it has said that they also feel like everything is starting to make more sense to them. I feel thankful that module 8 provides us with this opportunity to work full shifts with a mentor nurse. I have noticed such a huge difference in my feelings towards becoming an RN in just the span of a few weeks. Although I feel more confident, I recognize that I have so much more to learn, and that this is just the beginning. I’m excited to reflect on everything that I’ve learned once I’ve finished all 10 shifts.