

Over the last few weeks, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time in the Day Surgical Unit. I recognize that this is a unique experience where we care for many patients every day, pre and post-op, in a team fashion. One of the first things I noticed about this unit is its fast-paced nature. While time management is crucial and it can be easy to fall behind, I have never witnessed a group of nurses so ready to jump in and help one another. This has been truly inspiring to me. While I am learning so many excellent nursing skills, pathophysiology, pre and post-op protocols, and much more medical-based knowledge, the teamwork and unit culture have stood out to me the most.

A great example of this is that when the census is lowering or staff is high- everyone works different shifts. My preceptor gets sent home early on occasion. When this happens, other nurses are quick to volunteer to take me under their wing for the remainder of my shift. Even though it slows them down teaching and allows me to practice, I have never felt like a burden and always feel welcomed and respected. Another great example is how the IV start nurse and a PACU nurse allowed me to observe and participate in the care of patients to understand more member roles of the surgical team. Because of this, I have felt more confident in trying new skills, practicing old ones, and asking questions. This trend across the unit and team shows how much growth is possible when unit culture and staff members welcome students and new nurses.

In my future practice, I intend on emulating these great examples. I want to be the nurse that my coworkers can trust in an atmosphere that encourages teamwork. I plan to help when needed and step up to a heavy patient load. I also intend on treating my future students and new orienting nurses with the same spirit of compassion and nurturing that these great nurses have shown me. Finally, in my future practice, I will remember the nerves and intimidation that

students feel during their early clinical experiences and work to promote a safe atmosphere that fosters learning.