

Final Post Conference Reflection

During my last five shifts at the emergency room, I was able to see and learn much more. One of the things I have encountered the most during my shifts was the care of psychiatric patients. I have learned the emergency room is the entry site to all patients especially psychiatric patients. These patients are here for many different psychiatric emergencies such as, drug abuse and suicidal ideation. I have done rotations at psychiatric facilities but the cases there are not as critical as the patients who first come into the emergency room before being sent to a facility. When these patients are brought in my EMS, we see them at their lowest point. When caring for patients of this status it can be scary, but it is important to always keep calm to give them the help that they need. When caring for psychiatric patients it is important to be aware of our surroundings as patient safety is top priority. In the emergency room these patients have sitters who watch them and on staff security who has access to cameras who oversee all the patients.

There was one instance where my preceptor and I were caring for a patient who was experiencing a manic episode. We couldn't predict what this patient was going to do, so we attended to their care. She refused our care and requested we had another nurse treat her. So, we then let the other nurse care for the patient while we waited outside the room. I had my back turned and was paying attention to what another nurse was saying and at that point the patient got out of the room and had a hold of my shoulder. The on-staff security guard was not paying attention to the situation as he was on the phone. The patient was not hurting me, but I was somewhat scared because I was not sure what the patient was capable of. This then led to an argument between my preceptor and the security guard as he was not doing his job of assuring that the patient stays in their room. This incident was scary and taught me that I always need to be aware of my surroundings when dealing with psychiatric patients. It does not matter that there

is security available as they might not catch these types of situations. It is also important to always have a mindset that these patents need our care and don't mean to cause intentional harm as they might not always be in their right mindset.