

### Midterm Reflection

The first half of my preceptorship has gone very well and I feel that I've already learned so much. Although the day surgery unit was never somewhere that I found all that interesting, I quickly realized that it gives great opportunity for me to expand my knowledge in several different areas. I am able to help recover post-op patients from a variety of surgeries. My preceptor is great about pushing me to use critical thinking to explore the process of the different diseases and complications that have caused the patients to need surgery. She is very experienced and knows the surgeries well and is able to explain to me what was done in each of them. It is fascinating to understand the process and helps me to put the whole picture together about how the patient will benefit from the surgery. On top of being able to learn more about the different diseases and several surgeries, I am also being trained on how to properly recover each patient depending on what surgery they have had done. It has been a little bit of a challenge to remember the names of each surgery and what they mean. Also, it is difficult to remember what kind of restrictions each one calls for. However, since my first day this has become easier and I realized just knowing what was done in the surgery can usually tell you what that patient should/should not do. Most of the time the doctor will also provide specific orders about things that they want to make sure are taught to the patient. I am grateful to have been placed with a preceptor who has pushed me outside of my comfort zone and allowed me to really get the feel for how it will be as the total patient care nurse.

Although it has only been 5 shifts on this floor, I feel like I have experienced so much more than I thought I would have. It seems like every day I am seeing something new. I am thankful that so far all of our patients have had smooth recoveries and we haven't had any complications, but I think that when I do see that it will be another great learning opportunity. The highlight of my time on day surgery so far has really just been getting to see so many new things each day. Getting to interact with so many patients and doing my best to make them feel valued and comfortable during their short stay has also helped me to improve my communication technique. I want to be sure that even though most of them are there for only a short amount of time that I take the extra step to make them feel that we care and try to devote as much time as possible to each of them. I am excited to wrap up the last half of my preceptorship and plan to keep improving in all areas possible.