

Final Reflection

The remainder of my clinical shifts on the day surgery unit allowed me to tremendously expand my confidence. I was provided several opportunities to display my knowledge and abilities. My preceptor encouraged me to be independent and take on my own patient assignments. This allowed me to recognize that I am competent enough to complete the everyday tasks of a nurse. I realized that although there are still things that I have little to no knowledge about, there is always someone who is more experienced and willing to help. I have become more comfortable asking others when I don't know the answer to something. I understand that as a new nurse I will need guidance, and it is perfectly okay to ask questions whenever needed in order to provide the safest care to my patients. Every one of the nurses on the unit was so friendly and encouraging. They displayed phenomenal teamwork and created an environment that I enjoyed getting to be a part of.

I'm glad that during the little time I spent on the unit I was able to learn so much about post-operative care. There are so many different surgeries that occur, and there are special restrictions for the patient after each of them. It was fascinating to become familiar with the reasoning behind everything that we were doing. I particularly enjoyed getting to care for post-op cardiac patients. I've always been intrigued by the things that can be done to the heart and how effective and life changing those surgeries can be for the patient. It is amazing how they can enter the heart through different arteries and are able to do so much to such small structures. Before being in the day surgery unit, I wasn't very familiar with all the different procedures, but now I am much more comfortable with the many that I have been able to come across. This will definitely benefit me as I continue to move forward in my career. Not only did I get to be involved in post-op care, but I was also given opportunities to see the pre-op side of surgery as well. I was able to practice skills that I need more growth in such as starting IVs. It was extremely helpful to be able to learn from such an experienced nurse who was willing to show me her own tricks and tips. The exposure really allowed me to become much more comfortable, and I look forward to being able to expand my expertise in the skill.

I think it was really important to get to see all the different steps of the surgery unit and be able to watch them all come together. I understand now how much goes into just one patient's procedure and how each unit plays a role in making the process comfortable for each individual. Learning how to create meaningful interactions with my patients during just a short amount of time definitely allowed me to grow in my communication skills. I had to be sure that I was making each patient feel like a priority and become acquainted with them quickly so that we could establish a meaningful relationship during a limited amount of time. I think I became a bit more friendly through this experience. For the most part, I was lucky enough to always have really kind patients who were appreciative and treated me with respect. I highly value each patient interaction and I always strive to do my best at making each and every encounter meaningful. I'm also very thankful that I had an awesome preceptor. She was extremely patient and really wanted to make sure that I was learning something new each day. Her experience sets her apart and I truly recognized her wisdom. I couldn't have asked for a better experience and am

so grateful to have had the opportunity to learn from her. I enjoyed my preceptorship on the day surgery unit and believe that the experience and knowledge I gained there will benefit me as I begin my nursing career.