

Final Clinical Reflection:

I have enjoyed my clinical rotations at Covenant Women's and Children's hospital and have met many wonderful people while learning a multitude of things. My precepted clinical experience was different than I had imagined secondary to the fact that I had 5 preceptors- rather than the expected one. This fact could be viewed in a positive or negative- I choose to see the benefits of it, however. I was able to learn from many different registered nurses. This made me recognize certain things I would like to implement into my own practice- as well as make me aware of things I do not find beneficial. I would not have gathered this much insight had I only been assigned to only one preceptor; I believe in this way I benefited.

While I do still have 20 hours of clinical to complete- out of the 100 hours I did experience I would have to say that what I learned most was that pediatrics is not for me. I would rather focus on adult care- more specifically, in the adult ED. Regarding skills I learned- I am much more comfortable with using IV pumps, I am quite comfortable with it now. Medication administration does not seem nearly as nerve racking as it did before. I more proficient with the pump and IV administration. What I am more aware of is how important it is to check lab values before medications can be administered. I will be diligent regarding this issue in my own practice. I also am much more aware of patient safety, regarding medication administration and asepsis. I know how important it is to clean ports and always use the proper aseptic technique when accessing PICC lines and central lines. I have recognized how lax nurses become after practicing for certain time periods. Some however have remained confident and adhere to safe practicing guidelines. This is the kind of nurse I intend on being and I am very grateful to have been exposed to this respectable registered nurse.

Aspects of nursing I wish I had had more exposure to and practice with are blood draws and IV starts. This is a skill I was not able to practice since I did have so many different preceptors. I know that for the preceptor, it would be difficult for them to be comfortable with allowing a nursing student, who was new to them, to do specific skills. Especially with pediatric patients.

Overall, I recognize how beneficial these experiences were for me. I learned so much more; it is difficult to summarize 120 hours. One thing is clear, that is that I think every area of nursing is still reeling from COVID. I think we will all be adjusting to the difference COVID made in hospitals and within the healthcare system in general for some time. People still seem to be in a negative mindset and are lashing out at their co-workers. I think that this will be alleviated with time. I look forward to settling into my own niche within the healthcare system and am very grateful for the opportunity I have been given as a nursing student within Covenant School of Nursing.

