

Midterm Clinical Reflection

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I am currently doing my preceptorship clinicals for Module 8 in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit. I have loved my time there, and it also where I have accepted a job to work as a Graduate Nurse after I graduate. On my first clinical there, this information became known to my preceptor and she passed the information along to many other staff members there in an encouraging and welcoming way. This small action already made me feel so welcomed, seen, and appreciated. I also felt like it shifted the attitude of the staff on that floor to look at me, a student, with a little more respect and intentionality than they normally would. With all that being said, I think it was on my second clinical, I was following my nurse in the middle of our morning care times and feedings, when the charge nurse called my preceptor and asked if I, the student, would like to leave what I was doing to join her on a delivery. I of course said yes and very excitedly made my way to the 4th floor to meet up with the NICU charge nurse. She helped me put on different scrubs super fast and we made our way back to the OR room to watch a C-section delivery. I stood in the back during the actual delivery, then after the baby was born, the charge nurse let me participate in helping the NICU team dry and stimulate the baby, along with watching the APGAR process by a NICU nurse immediately after delivery. We talked with the mom and let her hold the baby before explaining where we would be taking her baby and how she would soon be able to join us there once she was stable. We then made our way with the baby back to the NICU floor where I observed and watched the admission process, and helped out when able. This was a very exciting time for me, and although may seem so simple of an act, it spoke to me that the staff and charge nurse went out of their way to include me for this delivery. My preceptor nurse was not involved, and this was not her baby, but the charge nurse made an effort to provide an opportunity for me to learn and be included on a delivery. It made me feel seen, important, and valued. I was extremely appreciative to the way she was so eager to teach me and show me the beautiful and fun aspects of getting to help play a role in such an amazing thing – bringing life to this world. This overall was a very encouraging thing to be a part of as a student. I feel like many aspects of school often can lead to new nurses already feeling burnt out, but it is moments like this where I feel excited to be a nurse and that I am doing something of value. Even though in this situation I was not able to be very hands-on or help out in any drastic way, it gave me a sense of worth and excitement to know that the people I will soon be working with want me to learn, and are excited to teach me thoroughly and correctly. This has already given me more confidence and made me feel like I can ask questions and not feel annoying to find even more new ways to learn. Working on the NICU so far during my clinicals has taught me so much, but has given me so much encouragement knowing that I will be working in an area that wants to see me learn and succeed. I already look forward to the many other things I will continue to learn and ways I will get to grow my skills and confidence as a soon-to-be Graduate Nurse.