

Preceptorship Final Reflection

During my preceptorship, I was glad to get to see almost all of the variety of pediatric units at the children's hospital. Each unit requires a different set of skills from the next in order to take care of the different patients therein.

During my two days in the Emergency Department, I was able to see many patients who presented to the hospital with anything from stomach aches to broken bones (one of which was an open fracture). From these experiences, I learned that emergency nurses require skills in understanding what focused assessments are necessitated for which problems the patient presents with as well as specific knowledge about how to treat patients with a variety of different types of traumas. Moreover, pediatric emergency nurses must keep up with an environment that can go from very slow to very fast in a matter of minutes!

During my two days in the NICU, I saw the importance of trending the weights of newborns so that they can grow and get out of the hospital, I saw how different the assessment skills are on newborns compared to infants as some of the newborn's problems will diminish with time, and I saw how they need to use assessment to detect early signs of change rather than lab studies as lab studies require a greater percentage of the blood supply of younger kids! Moreover, NICU nurses must keep to a regularly rotating schedule so that their kids can get the nutrients and sleep which they need to grow!

During the rest of my days, which were on the Pediatric floor, I gained experience with pediatric oncology patients, pediatric patients with chronic conditions, as well as the importance of team work on the unit! Pediatric oncology patients are monitored closer than some other patients as depending on the type of cancer and type of treatment they receive can change their presentation very much! Moreover, I saw how important time management is to those nurses, as they can have five patients to themselves of different acuities.

Overall, I feel like I have grown not only in my pediatric experience but also in my skills in assessment, medication administration, and most of all RN charting! Before this experience, I had not gotten to assess near as many pediatric patients nor document their physical assessments, which is experience I believe will be helpful no matter where I go in nursing! Moreover, during my IM 5 experience I didn't get the opportunity to administer very many medications that I remember, which gave me much room to grow as I got to administer many oral medications (pills and liquids both), intravenous medications, and even a few intramuscular injections! Moreover, getting extensive practice in charting all that a nurse is required to do was very beneficial as practicing that skill independently has allowed me to grow exponentially and grow my confidence in my abilities! Though the feeling I discovered prior to this experience that pediatric nursing is too much on my heart for me to do it long term still remains, I have gained a greater appreciation for what pediatric nurses do in working not only with their patients but also their parents, families, and support systems in order to better comprehend and care for their patients so that they can go home as healthy as possible! Finally, I am excited at the prospect of

continuing on as a novice nurse and growing my skills and becoming not only a good nurse but also a good teacher!