

I have had the opportunity to be at Covenant ED for my clinical hours. What I like about the ER is the teamwork involved. When a patient comes back to a room, all the nurses working together in that Pod will enter the room to assist getting the patient hooked up to the monitor and getting IV access. Everyone jumps in to help not leaving the nurse who will be assigned to that patient alone, it also gives her time to chart her triage note. I had several interesting patients today. One was a code I got to participate in, I helped put the patient on the cardiac monitor and I cycled in on compressions. I never knew how physically exhausting doing compressions in real time on a real patient is. At the end of my cycle my arms felt like jelly. I was so shaky and sweating, my arms felt almost numb I guess from the adrenaline. I got to see how the other nurses take charge in pushing medications while another nurse was scribing. The patient's skin on his chest was starting to peel off from the chest compression, which is something I have never seen before. I would say my first code went rather well and fast. It was not a long code because EMS had already been coding the patient prior to the ED. I wish I could have stayed to see how the nurse reacts with the patient's family and turns her care towards them

I was also given the opportunity to shadow a forensic nurse on a sexual assault case. I assisted in the head-to-toe assessment, looking for any bruising or break of the skin anywhere. I took pictures of any injuries on the patient. The forensic nurse would swab the patient, I would grab the swab and place it in a container after labeling it with the location and time. I was able to comfort the patient during an uncomfortable part of the exam. I provided emotional support by giving her my hand to squeeze, rubbing her arm and asking the patient if she was okay. I did get to see emotional support given to the patient's family. This was an emotional situation not only for the patient but for her family in the room. Overall, my time so far at the ED has been very educational and exciting. I do feel I can be better at the charting and assessments. Its hard for me

since all the nurses go in together to get my time to do a full assessment. The charting in the ED is very different from the floor. I have charted some vitals and assessments, but I know I can get better at it. I can't wait for my next hours to see what I will learn and get to see.