

During my preceptorship in PICU, I learned a lot more than I expected to. My preceptor and I had a very busy last five shifts. We had an 18 mo patient who had found some of his parents' methamphetamine. This patient was very my first CPS case which was interesting to learn about and see the process of how they handle this. This patient was also very irritable and cried until 5am so most of this patient care was providing comfort. The patient I had for my last two shifts was a very complex but interesting patient to care for. She was admitted with DKA, septic shock, and renal failure. This patient was being treated with perineal dialysis which was very interesting to learn about. She was also intubated but was fighting the vent. When we would go into her room during care times, she would wake up and bite the tube which would cause her to desat. She did this multiple times throughout both nights. We had to insert a bite block, so we were able to suction her and bag her to get her O2 up. At one point her oxygen saturation was 6% and her heart rate was about 30. This was my first experience of bagging a patient and although it was a good learning experience, it was very stressful. She also had a hemoglobin of 6.3 which is very low. Her parents were refusing a blood transfusion because they thought the blood would give her "demons". Since she was now symptomatic from this low hemoglobin level, they were going to go through the court to get an order for a blood transfusion. During the 10 shifts in the PICU, I had 3 DKA patients, RSV/enterorhino/adeno/paraflu patients, Covid patients, and diabetic patients. Every patient I cared for I learned something from them. Each shift was very beneficial, and this preceptorship was a major learning experience. At the beginning of my preceptorship, I was nervous and didn't have much confidence. After 10 shifts, I feel much better about becoming a graduate nurse and have gained some confidence in my skills. I am also much more confident about charting and navigating through EPIC. I feel more comfortable assessing my patients, providing education, administering medications, and documenting in the patient's chart. I have learned a tremendous amount of information during my shifts, but I know I have much more to learn and will always continue to keep learning. I plan on using everything I learned in the PICU when I start working in the Pedi ER as a graduate nurse.