

Final Reflection

My clinical preceptorship experience was done in the Emergency Room at Covenant Medical Center. At the beginning of the ten shifts, I was most concerned with how to document and use the report writing system. This was the part of nursing school that I feel like I had the least amount of experience with, especially since the report system was changed in the middle of school. My preceptor was really good at taking that aspect slowly with me and explaining the process. At first, she took the patient's and showed me how she does the documentation and by the end of the ten days I was taking the patients, triaging them and doing the documentation. I felt documentation in the emergency room to be a lot different and there seemed to be more to it than the other floors that we were on which definitely made for a learning curve. This is one of those things that takes time and the more you do it the more familiar you get with it and faster.

When it comes to skills, I think EMS helped me with the basics quite a bit in the aspect of anticipating what needed to be done as the patient was brought in. The skills seemed to be universally similar such as a set of vitals, blood draw, IV start and possibly telemetry or a 12 lead. One of the tricky aspects of this is either the nurse has to put in the orders (which I did not know we could do) or we have to wait for the doctor to. When it comes to obtaining blood, the nurse typically draws it up with or without orders and if orders are placed then they will use the blood drawn, if not it is thrown away. I don't know if that is one of the "beat around the bush" things for time and technically against protocol or if that is how the ER functions.

One issue I did have with my preceptorship is feeling like I needed to already know and do everything. I think preceptorship is a good bridge in applying school material to practice but some days I felt like I was in my internship and not a student. Times I would like to double check myself or ensure I am doing it correctly building muscle memory, I felt rushed or just taken over if I tried it. I would rather be slow and build up good habits and eventually get faster as I go rather than be rushed and build bad habits. My nurse was easy to talk to and could tell if I got frustrated and would help me or slow down. I also think I could have prevented a good amount of frustration by being open with my nurse on the first few days about what I was comfortable with and talking to her about my weaknesses and where I am struggling. After the few times that I brought something to her attention the whole situation felt much better and she was able to make me more comfortable doing the skills/paperwork.

I do think that after the end of just ten days in the emergency room I got a good feel of the environment and know it is for sure where I want to work. It was very reassuring to me how fast I got comfortable in an unfamiliar environment and career. Overall, my preceptor was really good and such a fun person to be around and with. She made this a great learning experience and helped me understand the nursing aspect of the emergency room. I think that after the clinical experience and summing up nursing school all together that I will be able to go into my job well prepared and excited that I chose to work where I did.