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### Reflection

This whole opportunity to follow my preceptor and care for patients has been an eye opening experience to say the least. I have never throughout nursing school, have had clinical on the East 7 Oncology unit. Working in the Operating Room I have only picked up patients from that unit to take them to surgery but have always been interested to see what the floor had to offer and wonder what the dynamic was like.

First of all my preceptor is awesome, she is such a sweet soul and very compassionate and knowledgeable. It was also heartwarming to know she could have retired already but stayed a couple weeks longer to be able to be my preceptor. Her retire date is going to be 5 days after my last scheduled clinical. She oriented me to the unit and where everything was. Everyone was friendly when I was introduced to them. One of the charge nurses even asked where I wanted to work and that I should work on their unit. Of course I expected to be a bit nervous because even though on the first day I was just observing it was a reality check that in a couple short weeks I will be the total patient care nurse assigned to patients.

The patients on the floor were of all ages and diagnosed with one or more types of cancers. I don't know why I was so surprised to see chemo medication in the size of a small little pill and when I thought about chemo therapy I automatically assumed it was always intravenous medication. Especially because of how hazardous it can be and all the teratogenic side effects it can cause. I was able to do quite a bit skill wise, like change several streak dressings, remove a Flexi-Seal, start an IV access, give PEG medications, draw labs peripherally and accessing ports to say the least. I most definitely will have so much more to learn especially with physical assessments to assure I don't miss anything that could potentially become important to their treatment plan. Also try and to anticipate patient needs, I know that will become easier over time and as I gain more experience but that way I am able to in hopes decrease symptoms the patient will deal with and provide more comfort.

One patient that stood out to me the most was one who even though was dealing with liver cancer that did not metastasize to other parts of the body but in fact was diagnosed with another primary cancer. Though she was a bit disappointed because she was hoping to be done with chemotherapy and begin to live a relatively normal life, she remained so hopeful. It's like she allowed herself to have that moment to feel sorry for herself and express emotions but then was ready to get this journey started and continue to make progress. It is very inspirational and kind of makes you reevaluate the "problems" you are facing are quite minor compared to what these patients are going through. I look forward to do the next five shifts and see what else I can experience and learn.