

Midterm Reflection

These first 5 shifts have really flown by, and I thought I wouldn't be ready for them. It really opened my eyes and made me realize that I have really learned a lot throughout nursing school. I knew in my class that a lot of us really wanted to work in pediatrics and I was honestly scared I wasn't going to be able to work in the NICU department for my preceptorship. Luckily, I was able to get into the NICU and I have loved being there.

I am grateful for my preceptor Meagan and letting me start getting experience and familiar with the equipment and start getting some skills refreshed as well as learning more about the unit on the first day. When I first got there, I was a little bit scared and shy with everyone. It does take me a little while to open up and be more social, but I am starting to find my way and it helps talking with all the other orientees that are there as well.

Second day of my clinicals, I was able to help transport a baby to get a CT scan of her head to rule out a possible craniosynostosis. It wasn't until the last couple of hours of my shift that we had a new admit to the floor and I was able to help with that. I was excited that I got to see and be a part of everything that happens during the admission process. Getting all of the blood pressures on all four extremities, blood drawn for labs, and also seeing the nurses get blood from the umbilical cord. After all that was taken care of I got to see the NNP perform a UVC insertion.

My fourth day was very eventful. It started out with us having a high acuity patient and a stable baby that was just put on phototherapy. The high acuity baby was barely a 24 week old and was intubated on an oscillator and had a UAC, PICC line, and a PIV line. After report, the patient was not having good MAPs and would occasionally desat. We had rounding with the doctors and after some changes, she had finally had good pressures. Later in the day, the doctor came back and said he wanted to have her prone. After brainstorming with the charge nurse and the RT because she had a UAC and we wanted to have her off of it, we had put her prone. After some time passed, she started to desat again but she would have bradycardia. The RT, my nurse and I went to see why she wasn't coming back up with her stats. As we looked at her we saw her ET tube just fall out of her mouth. We weren't exactly sure if she had extubated herself or if maybe the RT hit the arm that held the tubing. We then kicked into gear that she had no airway and needed to get her oxygen. We called all the necessary people including the charge nurse and the doctor along with a couple other nurses that helped with our other patient and documenting. I will say that it is a different experience and of course adrenaline pumping being there to witness an accidental extubation.

Overall, my first 5 shifts have been a great learning experience and I have really enjoyed having to do my preceptorship in a place where I have always wanted to be. I look forward to my next 4 shifts and I thank you Ms. Pia for pushing me and having the faith in me so far in this module.