

Final Clinical Reflection

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As this module comes to a close, up until this point, I didn't quite grasp the realness of becoming a nurse. What I mean by that is, the seriousness of someone's life being placed in your hands. This didn't fully hit me until the experience of my preceptorship. The multifaceted layers of patient care really became evident during my capstone and the biggest impact was the role of being a patient advocate while respecting the patient and the patient's family. Witnessing the role and influence the patient's family has on patient care set in and it wasn't always a good feeling. I had the opportunity of caring for a male patient at the age 45. He was a diabetic and a dialysis patient. He came from a SNF and was admitted due to a bowel obstruction. One thing, always take care of your bowels. From one week to the next, his stabilization quickly declined and his health tanked. He began to experience MODS and it was evident that he was in poor shape. His family battled with what to do and how to manage his care based on his condition. They didn't know what to do and didn't know how he would want to be managed in this setting. It was difficult for me to witness because I could tell how the patient was suffering. He wasn't on sedation and wasn't arousable. That to me was shocking. His liver didn't work and in that moment, I understood magnesium toxicity. He couldn't use the restroom because his bowels weren't working, and he couldn't breathe on his own because he had acquired pneumonia. We tried to explain to the family that it wasn't a very promising recovery because of the multiple organs failing. However, the family didn't seem to understand. How do you put a limit on someone's hope? I didn't think I would have a hard time experiencing this, but I did. I'm an emotional person and me learning to be unbiased in my care will be a challenge. I learned that no matter what I felt or what I knew to be true about his condition didn't mean anything to a family if they felt otherwise. I remember an instructor from my previous module telling us to find our true north and I as of now I am having difficulty knowing what that is right now. I know that with time I will find that meaning and learn how to be an exceptional nurse. My goal is to provide the best care and love to my patients and the patient's family despite of my own beliefs and medical understanding. After all, I only know things medically because I was blessed with the opportunity to go to nursing school. So in my career, I must always question myself, how many of my patients or patient's family attended nursing school too?