

Midterm Reflection

Being in the NICU for my preceptorship has been an amazing experience. I haven't had a slow day yet and I also haven't had a day where I was ready to go home. The amount of learning that has happened in my six shifts has been exponential. On my first day I was with the feeders and growers which typically is a bit slower than being in the other two areas, but it was fast paced for me because all three babies had care times at 8, 11, 2 and 5 so the day flew by. On my second day I took care of an infant with an imperforate anus and two of her surgeries had dehiscenced and she was on a ventilator. On my third day I went to surgery with the same baby from my previous shift and I was able to be there when the doctor was using a scope to investigate what was going on inside of the infant and I was able to see the shock and terror on the doctor's face when she realized the little girl had two vaginas and two cervixes. It was an emotional and shocking day, but it taught me so much. On my fourth day I was finally able to start charting and it was an eventful day as well. I took care of a premature infant who was born at 25 weeks but was adjusted to 30 weeks. She was on an oscillator and one of the respiratory therapists took the time to explain everything to me about oscillators and even wrote notes for me to study on my own about the different types of ventilation. On that same day I was able to see two twins get intubated and receive surfactant. One of the twins was able to be extubated and put on CPAP, but the other had to stay on the ventilator because he was saturating in the 40s. On my fifth day I took care of the twin that was still intubated, and I was able to see him be extubated and put on the CPAP. He also had a chest tube because he had a large pneumothorax therefore, I was able to learn about the chest tubes and how to work with them. On my sixth day I was taking care of the same infant as before, but I was also able to see an admission of a 31-week baby who was 3 pounds even and I witnessed them putting in a UVC and how quickly they moved during the "golden hour". My experiences have been nothing less than spectacular. I now have a job in the NICU that I will be starting right after graduation and I believe this preceptorship helped me gain the confidence I needed for my interview, but it has also given me an opportunity to learn how to be a nurse on my own. I understand what being a NICU nurse means now, and I am going to try my hardest to become as wonderful of a nurse as Camille is. She is so smart and has a lot of knowledge about infants and she inspires me to always want to learn more.