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Midterm Reflection

Wow, how this module has already flown by and how I have learned so much is amazing. Being in the Medical ICU has really made me love nursing and be really excited to have the opportunity to work there in January. I have learned so much in my 3 shifts so far. I have yet to see a code, but I have seen art lines placed, bronchoscopes, intubations, I have gotten to practice skills, and think about plenty of ethical issues that need to be handled.

Witnessing all the different medical advances and technologies that go into saving a life is so incredible. I love how everyone has a job and is well organized amongst the chaos of the situation. Sometimes it is hard to separate the skill from the fact that we are doing some pretty painful and uncomfortable things to these sick people. I feel bad sometimes for being excited to see the procedures. What it all comes down to, is that I want to take care of these people at all cost and I cannot wait to be there for them and their family every step of the way.

I am so lucky to have a good preceptor that explains what she does and why, as well as, encourage me to think and apply what I have learned. She lets me do just about everything I can with her supervision and guidance when needed. I have gotten more comfortable with titration of meds, reading what vitals are important and when, and plenty of charting. Being in the ICU is a little intimidating and getting as much hands on as I can is boosting my confidence in that this is what I want and I can do it with time. I also like that I feel comfortable asking questions and trusting the answer.

As far as ethics, I have seen quite a few patients who have requested that nothing be done for them but their family said no and to do everything. It's hard to stand by and watch as we continue the lifesaving measures to a person who wants nothing more than to be at peace and pass. I can understand that the families want their loved one with them but I just find it hard to be the one to torture them with a tube in their chest, in their mouth, and tying them down, when they asked not to. Because they "weren't in their right mind" according to the family, we did it.

All in all, I am thankful for these experiences and people I've met so that I can bring these into my practice. I am still a little nervous to be on my own but I know that I will have more confidence the more I go and I will continue to ask questions. I know that time is just going to fly by.