

## Midterm Clinical Reflection

My clinical experience in CICU has given me so many learning opportunities. I have learned so much both in the realm of time management and patient care skills in the four shifts I have worked so far. I have cared for patients that were vented, been there for patients being extubated, patients on CRRT, patients that were septic, and more. I learned time management especially with my patient on CRRT. Because of the patient's low platelet levels, we had to use calcium citrate instead of heparin. This added an extra step and because it took pharmacy a lot longer to get us the calcium citrate than it normally would the heparin. The CRRT also, unfortunately, did not seem to be working. We were having to draw from the patient's arterial line as well as the venous line from the machine every hour. Despite our adjustments, the calcium was still not within therapeutic range and we ended up getting to the point where we were giving more fluid than we were taking off. Although I felt discouraged by the end of the shift, knowing that the CRRT wasn't doing much good, I learned so much about how it works and by the end of the day I had gotten a great routine down for my hourly adjustments/maintenance and documentation. My preceptor continued to help me even at the end of the shift because the hourly tasks were very time consuming. However, by the end of the shift I felt like I could have done it independently! That morning, I was feeling like I had no idea what was going on and very overwhelmed. I now have a better strategy for patients like this one as to how to organize my workload and avoid feeling so overwhelmed. I have learned so much in my time in CICU and I cannot wait to see what the second half of my clinicals brings.