

Preceptorship Final Reflection

I completed 10 shifts for my capstone clinical experience on the Pediatric unit at Covenant Children's Hospital. I worked alongside my preceptor Kristin and played the role as the total patient care nurse for the second half of my experience. The confidence that I have gained in myself in being a new graduate nurse from the first shift to the 10th shift is significant. I have worked 5 shifts taking full care of 3 to 4 patients, doing complete charting, assessments, medication administration, patient communication, discharges, admissions and much more. This experience has taught me that I am capable of much more than I think. I have learned so much and grown as a student nurse over the past 120 hours and feel ready to embark on the journey becoming the registered nurse.

One of the greatest challenges I faced while working on the Pediatric unit is the differences in care from working with adults most of our clinical experience during school. I have learned how to approach children in the hospital in a manner that helps to minimize fear and make their experience being hospitalized the least traumatic as possible. I worked alongside child life in many shifts, getting toys, game consoles, stickers, and much more for kids to occupy their time and help their healing. Another difference was learning changes in medication administration for children. I had to pay close attention to dosages for children as it is based off of their weight, and many medications can become toxic to young children if not administered correctly. I learned how to dilute each medication and to use the syringe pump that is only used in pediatrics.

I hope to be able to apply my knowledge and experience working with children during my preceptorship into my future work as a pediatric nurse. I love working with children and

their families and have been touched by the experience. Getting to know certain patients that visit the floor often due to chronic conditions and having the opportunity to be a light in their day was one of my favorite parts about the preceptorship.

I learned that one of the most important parts about having a successful team of nurses on the unit is the culture. Seeing nurses offer to help one another as soon as they had a free moment and picking up that practice will help me in my career as a nurse and overall positively impact patient's safety and care. Another one of the greatest things I have learned is that no matter how many years I may gain under my belt as a registered nurse, I will learn something new every day. I think it is so important as a nurse to not become complacent in your practice, to continue your education and be the best nurse I can be. Although I feel so much more confident in myself and know that I am fully capable of being a registered nurse and handling care for 4 patients, I have so much more to learn and knowledge to gain through experience.

I cannot wait to begin practicing as a registered nurse and continue impacting and serving children and their families. I thoroughly enjoyed the preceptorship and think that it will ultimately make me a better nurse and more confident starting my career.