

Anzleigh Swecker

Final Reflection

I have learned more than I could have ever imagined in the last ten shifts I have worked at the Medical Intensive Care Unit. One of the main skills I feel like I was able to learn was how to critical think. I was able to see what labs, results as well as manifestations I need to look at and for. I have been able to put what I have learned in class to the clinical setting. Especially in the ICU, these patients are in a critical state, so it is important to know the labs you may need to replace as well as how to critically think to titrate a medication up or down. I have to not only be able to see a potential problem, but I also have to know how I can stop it or prevent it from becoming a bigger issue.

One of the main things I have been able to reflect on over the past five shifts is the transition from a nurse aide to a registered nurse. I have been a nurse aide for five years now, so I know I need to make an adjustment to how I provide care. I no longer can say, "let me ask your nurse." I have to learn that they will rely on me to provide their care and know the answers to some of their questions. I also must learn to step up and play the role as the registered nurse, because I have always been in the background to just help when needed. I think that has been one of the most challenging things for myself, is knowing I have to be able to critically think and have answers. Another problem that I had to reflect on during my preceptorship is being able to take control and lead the care for my patients. I think I have been accustomed to following a nurse and them telling me what I need to do and when I need to do it. I always want to ask permission before I perform a skill and if it is the right thing to do. I need to build the confidence in myself that I know how to take care of a patient and to take control of what needs to be done.