

## Midterm Reflection

The clinical experience in this module has been a great experience so far! I was really nervous at first with having to be more in control and taking on more than one patient, but this time with the help of a preceptor, it makes it less overwhelming. The fact that we are now encouraged to work more as the nurse, instead of just the student, is a big deal. I felt like at the beginning of the module, I still didn't feel like I knew enough to feel comfortable enough to be making decisions on my own. Then now half way there, it turns out that I do know more than I realized. To go back and think of how little I knew at the beginning of nursing school, to what we know now, is a big accomplishment. I know we still have a lot to learn along the way, but things are falling into perspective and I can see myself in that nurse role. It makes me excited and even more scared!

We move around the hospital so much that what we learn on one floor, might not be the case on another floor. As we get to stay on one floor, and the consistency is there, it has made it easier to tie things together and make sense of things less stressful and I find which routine works best for me. I have been able to establish a form of nurse-patient relationship, and it's helped me be quicker on my feet to decide how I am going to plan my care for them that day. The medications make me nervous with how much we have had to learn, but with the patients we have had, I have an idea of what I am giving and am familiar with some of the ones I have struggled with. I have even gotten better at remembering to see if they are compatible with the fluids that are running. Right now, it's the small stuff for me. Like the smallest things that I have struggled with, such as documenting, I am starting to feel better about those small things that it gives me somewhat of a confidence booster to believe that I can do this!

Things that have gone well are that even when it's a busy day, we still manage to have a good day. And my preceptor has been great at setting that pace for the day. As we approach day 5 of working together, it makes a difference when you work with people who encourage you and remind you that it's okay to not know it all at the beginning. However, to keep striving to implement best practice and not stray away from what's important. To provide comfort and care for those in need, and never judge. I plan to contribute as much as I can during these last clinical days and take in as much as I can. Contribute in a way that I am more helpful to my preceptor and not cost him to fall behind. It has been hard to feel confident during my shifts, but I have appreciated the positive feedback from the other nurses on the floor that don't mind helping me or even ask if I want to see a skill or procedure and help out.

While it has mostly been a good experience, I have also learned how easy it is to fall short of doing your job as a nurse. For example, how easy it is to just say "I don't have time for that extra step, or skip this step" and compromise patient safety. At this point, it has taught me what I don't want to be as a nurse, or remember to treat everyone with respect. I know that nursing is hard as it is, it's a demanding job and that it won't always be a good day. But it pushes me to want to be better, and serves as a reminder that I worked too hard to just fall and not give my best. I look forward to finishing up the last 5 shifts, and be proud of meeting my goals.