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IM8: Midterm Reflection

7 April 2024

Midterm Post Conference: Reflection

Working on Mercy 8 has presented challenges for me during my preceptorship. The specialty of this floor is medical surgical and urology. Most of the time, there is a 5:1 patient to nurse ratio, and initially, I felt overwhelmed by the number of patients we had to care for. It seemed like a never-ending process of charting and administering medications. My preceptors have been a great source of encouragement and guidance during the whole, five 12-hour shifts.

My preceptorship experience there has made me aware of my resilience as a person. I now have a routine of always double-checking the lab results and patient orders. I have discovered that under pressure, I am adaptable and quick to change. I have had good communication with my patients as well. Even though my advantages outweigh my disadvantages, I still have room for improvement in the areas of time management, organization, and anticipating the needs of my patients. I have gained new skills in performing and observing blood draws, challenging catheter insertions, and manual bladder irrigation. The cases I saw that have stayed with me are the right ureteral repair following a failed hysterectomy, rectal bleeding, and scrotal cellulitis. Upon witnessing the extent of pain my patients were in, I was deeply moved. One of the patients talked about how his condition got worse because he could not afford his medications. He added that his nieces' attempts to uplift and support him are the only thing keeping him from ending his life. The other patient arrived expecting a hysterectomy, but

the procedure failed because the doctors unintentionally injured her bladder and right ureter. She had to have a nephrostomy bag and was in excruciating pain.

Having worked my first five shifts, I have seen firsthand the flaws in the healthcare system, which has opened my eyes greatly. All I could do was wish for things to improve so that people could support their health and afford their medications. I also support giving our medical professionals more extensive training. After two years of rigorous study in nursing school, I am even more grateful for this opportunity provided to us in module 8. It allows us to gradually make the transition from academics to practice. I am glad our preceptors allowed us to practice under their supervision because it helped us get to know ourselves better, establish a routine, and learn from our mistakes so that when we work independently, we can still be competent nurses.