

Meghan Schmitt
Midterm Post Conference Reflection
Covenant Medical Center - SICU 3
4/8/24

Week 1: For the first two nights, I was actually not able to be with my assigned preceptor, as she had to charge on the unit, however, I was still given great opportunities to work on my skills and learn about new machines and protocols. As instructed, one of the first things I did was have an orientation to the floor. We went over the layout of the unit and where things were located, such as the crash cart, central supply and med room. Within my first two nights, I was able to be oriented to CRRT, chemotherapy safety, charting and I witnessed a rapid response/code blue. I was also able to perform the following skills: central line dressing change, labs via art line, IV/OG medication administration and oral care. I feel like once I got on the floor it was go-go-go all the time, there was always something we had to grab or get within each hour. I will say, even though I was not with my preceptor, the nurse I was with did a really good job allowing me to take charge of medication administration and performing any skill that I was confident in.

Week 2: As for the last three nights of the first half of my preceptorship, I was able to be with my nurse and we actually kept our patient for all three nights as well. Within these shifts, my highlights included: CRRT skills/learning, code blue observation and performing CPR, impella/PA catheter learning opportunities, tube feeding initiation with the kangaroo machine, foley insertion, peripheral IV insertion, titrating medications and hanging/administering blood products. Whenever there is an opportunity on the floor for me to observe or perform a skill, my nurse will jump in and make sure we're there for it. One opportunity happened to be during a code blue on our floor and my nurse put me in line for compressions. This was only the second time I've done compressions and it was actually a code we were anticipating, so I was able to "prepare" myself to participate. I've always worried about how I will respond during a code and whether I was actually prepared, however, I can officially say it is pure adrenaline and I did not in-fact sing "stayin' alive" like I thought I would.

I feel like this week was a little overwhelming with how much we needed to observe for my patient. Thankfully CRRT was an easier concept due to my recent exposure with it, I knew what numbers we needed, how to adjust the machine and what fluids went where. As far as the impella and PA catheter, I got the hang of the numbers needed for hourly charting and how to find them, but still learning the significance of those numbers and the wavelength for both. Throughout our shift as well, we were continuously drawing labs to send. There actually came a point that the lab could not perform them at all for our patient, the blood wasn't separating like it was supposed to, therefore, I was able to help with hanging FFP and blood and how to prep the filter with NS previous to spiking those products.

I would say that overall, I have learned a lot. I'm really proud of the accomplishments I've made thus far including total patient care and charting. I feel a lot more confident in certain skills, such as oral care and suctioning. I feel like previous to now, I was a lot more timid with it, but I've

found to be getting better at actually brushing their teeth and doing the job! From here I hope to just progress that confidence to other areas and keep improving on my skills and charting.