

Final Reflection

I can't believe it's over! Coming into my preceptorship, I had a lot of expectations and goals that I had set for myself. I quickly realized how little I could do without a nursing license. Yes, I charted all the patients. Yes, I initiated the majority of the care and interventions. Yes, I was the one administering all the medications. With that being said, when it came time to become an ICU nurse, I had to take a back seat. For example, when my patients became unstable with their blood pressure dropping and their heart rate rising, my preceptor immediately began nursing interventions without allowing me to manage the patient myself. That is for patient safety reasons, obviously, but I am also practicing under his license. If I am being honest with myself, I believe that at the end of my preceptorship, I could confidently manage an LTACH patient, but not a true ICU patient. The biggest struggle for me was when nurses bolus drip medication. I find it hard to believe that is in a nurse's scope of practice. It is borderline practicing medicine, especially when it is not found anywhere in our policy and procedure, but it is a practice that is commonly done throughout all the ICUs in Covenant Medical Center.

I am truly grateful to my preceptor in SICU 3. I got to learn a ton about cardiac, neuro, trauma, and surgical patients. It was my number one choice for my preceptorship. There were a ton of nurses there who knew their pathophysiology and pharmacology. The unit had a family-like feel to it, and everyone loved to joke and laugh about the most random things. Mitch was always in the unit, constantly checking on his nurses and making sure that everything was running smoothly. He is the manager that any nurse would love to work for. I am honored that he thought highly enough of me to offer me a position.

Currently, I am struggling with the thoughts and feelings of where I will start my ICU career, but I have a great foundation thanks to Andres and SICU 3.