

Meghan Schmitt
Final Post Conference Reflection
Covenant Medical Center - SICU 3
4/28/24

Week 3: For my 6th shift, my preceptor and I were actually floated to the neurosurgical ICU. It was exciting just to see a different patient population and practice on my neuro assessments! Out of my highlights and skills for this day, the best thing we went over was PRBC administration and continuing my learning on that skill. As for the 7th shift, we went back to SICU 3. We had the opportunity to go to MICU for a rapid response and a code blue, they were having a pretty hectic night as two patients kept rotating code status and rapid status. One patient was so unstable with their vent settings they had to be manually bagged for prolonged periods of time, we continuously kept going up to assist so that I could gain more experience during these situations and compression "practice". As for our patients, we were able to transfer one of our patients to a medical surgical floor which gave me the opportunity to do over the phone report and it allowed me to see an admission to our floor and what charting should be done during that process. I also had the opportunity to assist with weaning a patient towards extubation and chest tube management.

Week 4: On my 8th shift, I was with a different nurse (Claire) as my nurse had to charge that night. Claire is really good about charting and talking through what I should definitely chart and things that she decides to chart in addition to normal expectations, a continuation of learning how to chart is always appreciated. I was able to administer cryoprecipitate, practiced all medication administration and flush a flexiseal. I was also able to see an admission with a stab wound to the neck, which was wild and I was able to help the nurse taking this patient with room prep and transferring the patient from the ER to our floor. For my 9th and 10th night I had the same patients, one was basically a medical surgical patient as they came to us only for being on Levophed after a procedure, but I was still able to practice my medication administration and patient patience as well...this particular person was in need of a lot of attention. As for my other patient, we were practicing with titrating medications all night with Levophed, dobutamine and precedex/propofol. That was an interesting case, as my patient was found unresponsive during a home wellness check and they had a STEMI and multiple strokes upon admission. We also had to take this patient to CT, so the whole team dynamic was myself, my nurse and RT, which was very stressful getting on and off of the elevator.

Overall, I feel that I've continued to learn how to manage my time and cluster care as much as possible. From my 6th shift on, I was doing total patient care and charting on both of my patients instead of just one. Some of the biggest things I wanted to focus on was communication with the charge nurse and nurse practitioners as well as answering the phone, and/or calling others on the phone for report or assistance from the lab with medications or labs pending. I have major phone anxiety and I knew practicing that now will only benefit in the long run, as this will always be a necessity within nursing. The other thing I continue to practice and work towards is confidence and I think that will slowly increase as I become a new grad nurse and start working, but overall knowing what I'm doing and why will always be a priority for me. I'm pretty grateful

for the preceptor I was assigned, as she always tried to find opportunities for me to learn and practice any and all skills and she allowed me to do things independently and take charge with patient decisions (with observation of course). The overall preceptorship experience allowed me to think ahead to how I want to manage my time and patients with my future job.