

Katy Needham- Midterm Reflection

I was so excited to get the adult emergency room as my placement for module eight. When the first day of clinical came around I was so anxious. Fifteen minutes into my first shift, we ran a code, and I did compressions. I was on cloud nine after that. Throughout the rest of the day, I learned the layout of the unit and my preceptor observed me to see what I knew and didn't. I left day one knowing I wanted to work there.

On day three, everything I touched seemed to go bad. I missed an IV and somehow pulled the hub off another IV and got the patients blood all over the bed. Shortly after that a cardiac arrest rolled through the door. I did compressions. After 45 minutes the doctors called it. I left the trauma room with tears in my eyes. Instead of taking a second I got straight back to work because a patient needed an IV. I knew I was not ready to even attempt an IV because of what just happened in the code but I tried anyways. I absolutely butchered it. That upset me even more. For half the day I was beating myself up for making a mistake. My preceptor noticed and pulled me out of my "funk" later that day and I ended the shift on a good note.

My three other shifts were "normal" days. I learned how to do ED charting, strengthened my assessments, and practiced anticipating things. I gained so much confidence over these five shifts.

After five shifts in the emergency department I can definitely see myself working there. I love the fast paced environment, diversity of illness, and the staff. The next five shifts I really want to focus on improving IV skills and working independently. By the end of my preceptorship I want my nurse to feel like she had the day off because I did every single thing.