

I started my preceptorship nervous that in 8 short weeks I would be the registered nurse not the student. After completing the preceptorship, I am ready to be the nurse. Still nervous of course but I am very well prepared. During my time in the ER I “perfected” my assessment, IV, catheter, med admin, and patient communication. I made huge gains in my skills during the 10 shifts.

I was in triage for one of my last shifts and although I appreciate the opportunity for blood draws and IV’s I did not like being up there. I acted as a tech in triage not a nurse. I did not chart and I could have used the experience as it would have made me faster at doing it over and over. I understand the urgency and importance of practicing skills but it still was not my favorite place to be.

During my last five shifts I also had my “aha” nurse moment. A patient came in covered in feces and basically had a totally open abdomen. The patient had an ileostomy but no bags for it so for two weeks feces covered the abdomen and ate a hole into the skin. It was not my patient but my nurse and I went to help. My nurse left almost immediately as the smell was awful. Six nurses walked in that room to help but only two stayed and I was one of them. It was the nastiest thing I had ever seen/ smelled but I knew that nobody else was helping this patient so I did.