

## Final Reflection

I just want to start off by saying how much I have enjoyed this opportunity to have my preceptorship on the Oncology floor. I have gotten to experience so much on the floor, like I mentioned last time multiple medication passes, assessments and documentation. Now after working these last five shifts there have been a few interesting things that have stood out to me that I would like to discuss. The most interesting thing to me was when we had to insert an NG tube in a patient. This poor patient was constipated and had been constantly dry heaving all day, and when he would vomit it was hardly anything. What we also noticed was that when he did vomit it was bowel, so that is why we got him an order to have the NG tube placed. While we were inserting the NG tube he vomited a little. After the tube was secure I offered to wipe his face and neck down with a clean wipe, and I also changed his gown because it got a little dirty as well. This gave me the opportunity to show him compassion and love, and it made me feel good to help him feel more comfortable after the tube had been placed. Now the very interesting part about this is after we had inserted the tube bowel completely started to drain from him. We were in there for maybe 15 minutes after the insertion and he already had a liter of bowel emptied from his system. This was about 3:00pm when we put the tube in and then by the end of our shift he had a total of three liters filtered out. That was really shocking and a crazy thing for me to see and experience.

Another thing I got to experience was showing compassion to a patient who was feeling depressed about her diagnosis of cancer. This poor lady had come into the hospital just for constipation, but after a few tests her doctors diagnosed her with cancer. Now I have had this patient since I started my preceptorship, when I first met her she was very smiley, cheerful and talkative. I also remember when I met her she had her hair pulled up, but one day I had walked into her room to find her with her head shaved. As the weeks progressed she became more depressed and gloomy. She would cry multiple times when we were in her room and would also make little comments about how her husband may not find her pretty anymore. This was a very emotional experience for me, I wanted to make her feel better and feel more confident about herself. Most of the time while she was crying we just stood there and comforted her, just being present with her in that moment was all we needed to do in order to make her feel understood. I think these are situations that I would like to improve on, how to comfort the patients when they are in a vulnerable state.

Overall I enjoyed my last five days on the Oncology floor. This preceptorship allowed me to expand my knowledge and freshen up many skills. There were so many different patients and situations I got to experience as well. One thing I did notice is that my confidence has definitely increased since my first few shifts. I am sad that the preceptorship is over, but I hope that one day I will get to work on the oncology unit again.