

I am precepting at Grace Surgical Hospital alongside my preceptor Jamie Liveesay. I did my IM7 internship over here, and I also worked as an aide during the break at Grace Surgical Hospital. I was already comfortable with the staff, and the Nurse Manager Candy already knew me by name because of my time at Grace previously. I already knew my preceptor Jamie beforehand as well, so I feel like I had less nerves than most who started their preceptorship.

For my first five shifts I learned how to start IV's, admit and discharge a patient, and how to document my assessments. I was on the day surgery floor and the med surg floor during my rotation. My preceptor was very involved in teaching me these skills, and she was available to me when I needed help. The result of this was that I was able to start an IV all by myself without my nurse having to intervene and help me. I was feeling nervous about it at first because some patients can be very intimidating when they say things like, "do you know what you're doing?", or, "I am a very hard stick." However, with practice I grew more confident, and the whole process of it became easier. Learning how to admit and discharge people was a lot easier though since it's mostly on the computer. There wasn't the pressure of missing a stick on someone, and telling them that you have to stick them again. The most important emotion I felt was a willingness to learn. I wasn't scared to try some new skills. I volunteered to remove a foley on the Medsurg floor so I can sharpen my skills. I volunteered myself to stick people even if I missed. What was good about this is the hands-on experience I received. I learn better when I actually do things compared to just watching.

There have been challenges that have come across my way during my preceptorship. One of these challenges were the early wake up times. When I was on the MedSurg floor I'd have to get to the hospital by 0645, so I would have to wake up at around 0545. However, when I was on Day Surgery I'd have to start at 0530. I would have to end up waking up at 0430 which is very early. The long 12 hour shifts are also a challenge. I'd have to be resilient throughout the shift because it can take a toll on me mentally. The worst part of the shift is the last four hours. That's when I feel like it really starts to drag. That's where I need to improve my stamina for the last four hours. The scheduling has also been quite challenging too. Sometimes my preceptor would get canceled and her schedule would get switched around, so I got to work on my communication with Mrs. Pia to keep her updated with my schedule. This has been a positive for my learning experience.

In conclusion I have had a very good time in my first five shifts of my preceptorship. I got to speak with the nurse manager about potentially working at Grace and she told me she would keep me updated. Hopefully I will be able to work here as a New Grad Nurse. These first 60 hours have been very beneficial to my nursing skills and clinical judgement. I cannot wait for the next half of this and the many opportunities that it will bring to me. It is important to me that I constantly improve throughout each shift, and I need to make it a point to not lose any learning opportunity and to use this preceptorship to my advantage.

