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Preceptorship Reflection 1

I have completed 4 out of 10 days of my NICU preceptorship so far. On my first day, I was very excited to meet my preceptor and learn about the role of NICU nurses. That day, we cared for two critically ill neonates. My preceptor showed me the first steps to take before starting the job and emphasized the importance of doing everything the right way. I was amazed by how dedicated NICU nurses are and how every step must be done with precision.

One of the most important things I learned was how to properly administer medication in the NICU. My preceptor explained that every medication must be verified with another nurse before giving it to a baby. Since these neonates are critically ill, sterile technique must always be followed. I also learned how fragile these babies are and how carefully we must handle them, especially with the tubes and catheters connected to them.

During my first experience with medication administration, I felt disappointed in myself because I made several mistakes. I realized that caring for neonates is very different from working with adults, and I still have a lot to learn. My first and second days were mostly about familiarizing myself with the unit's routines, locating supplies, and learning about the different types of beds and their functions. I made sure to take notes on everything I needed to remember.

On the third and fourth days, we were assigned to two different neonates, and their care was slightly different from the previous patients. I quickly realized that there is so much more to learn, and I kept asking my preceptor for guidance. There were times I felt frustrated with myself for forgetting things, but I reminded myself to stay positive and keep learning.

Throughout these four days, I have observed and learned a lot. I had the opportunity to witness major procedures like intubation, umbilical venous catheter (UVC) placement, and arterial line (AOC) insertion. The doctors and nurses were kind enough to explain everything to me, even while they were busy working, which I really appreciated. Seeing these procedures firsthand was a great learning experience.

Moving forward, I know I need to improve my time management and SBAR reporting. I also want to build more confidence in performing my tasks and making quick yet accurate decisions. My goal for the upcoming days is to be more efficient while still ensuring patient safety. I will continue to ask questions, take notes, and practice until I feel more confident in my skills. Despite the challenges, I am motivated to keep learning and growing in the NICU.