

Mid-Term Reflection

My preceptorship experience has been going great so far, even better than I had initially anticipated. Everyone on the unit is nice and helpful; it also felt like they all enjoyed their jobs and wanted to be there. My first shift gave me a taste of what floating to a different unit was like and if I'm not mistaken it was a Med/Surg floor. Having 5 to 6 patients at a time helped me work on my time management and prioritization skills from day 1, and I am sure this experience will help me later down the line.

Being on the Oncology floor was truly an eye-opening experience, 3 out of my 4 patients were within 1-3 years older than I am. Going about my everyday life sometimes I forget how blessed I am to have good health, however seeing people my age suffer from a wide variety of cancers will change my perspective forever. One patient that really stuck with me was a guy around my age who also drove trucks and was recently diagnosed with Acute Lymphocytic Leukemia. The patient thought he would be able to go back to work after this hospital visit but in reality, his life did a complete 180. Due to the cancer, he would have to have Intrathecal chemotherapy which was something I hadn't known to have even existed. His wife was at the bedside with a small notepad writing down all the patient teaching that my Preceptor gave regarding his new diagnosis, I could not even begin to imagine the obstacles they would have to overcome together with their 2 little kids.

Having a patient and knowledgeable preceptor has played a huge role during my clinical rotation. I have learned a lot more about cancer and radiation effects on our bodies, got to watch chemotherapy get administered, and helped with placing an NG Tube as well as a list of other things I got to do/help with. I feel like I made the right decision and I'm hoping this experience

helps me become a more competitive candidate for the MD Anderson New Grad Residency program.