

IM8 Preceptorship Final Reflection

Step 1 – Description

Over the course of weeks 5 and 6 of Instructional Module 8, I have worked 5 different 12-hour shifts alongside a registered nurse in the PICU at the Covenant Children's Hospital. During these 5 shifts I assumed the role and responsibilities of a registered nurse. This experience has helped me to significantly improve upon my abilities to perform nursing interventions, gather clinical data, and educate patients about the pathology of their disease processes.

Step 2 – Feelings

At the beginning of my clinical preceptorship, I felt uncertain about my ability to perform at a functional level while occupying the role of a registered nurse. My experiences throughout the first half of the clinical preceptorship helped ease my concerns regarding this inability to perform, so that when I began the second half of my clinical preceptorship, I felt much more confident about my ability to utilize the nursing process in real-time. I will leave the clinical preceptorship with a newfound understanding of what the expectation of a registered nurse encompasses.

Step 3 – Evaluation

Overall, I feel that the last 5 shifts of my clinical preceptorship provided me with a positive experience. After my first 5 shifts, I identified my areas of weakness to be interpersonal communication and patient education. During the second half of my clinical preceptorship, I challenged myself to improve upon these areas of weakness. I believe I achieved this goal by taking the initiative to create opportunities for interpersonal communication and patient education while I was in the clinical setting. After finishing my last 5 shifts of clinical

preceptorship, I have identified my new areas of weakness to be timely documentation while working with high-acuity patients and managing patients' pain levels. I will improve in my identified areas of weakness by developing more of a scheduled routine while working as a registered nurse that will allow me to have more time for charting, prophylactic pain management, and pain reassessment.

Step 4 – Analysis

Prior to my last 5 shifts of clinical preceptorship, I studied the pathophysiology of disease processes common to the patient population of the PICU. The disease processes I studied consist of Diabetic Ketoacidosis, Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, and various epileptic disorders including Lennox-Gastaut Syndrome and Landau-Kleffner Syndrome. This extra studying helped me to assess my patients for clinical data that would indicate an alteration in the status of their disease. My familiarity with these common disease processes also helped me to better understand the plans of care being developed for my patients.

Step 5 – Conclusion

The biggest thing I feel I could have done to improve the second half of my clinical preceptorship experience is create more of a daily schedule to manage my time as a registered nurse. While I entered my preceptorship with the knowledge of scheduled cares and assessments performed in the PICU, I have never had to follow them in the role of a registered nurse. As I grow more familiar with my role as a registered nurse in the PICU, I will begin to familiarize myself with a personalized routine that allows me to better manage my time.

Step 6 – Action Plan

Overall, I have had a very positive experience throughout my clinical preceptorship in PICU. My time in the preceptorship has gifted me with a rejuvenated confidence and greater

understanding of the nursing process. I will utilize everything I have learned in the PICU clinical preceptorship to become a competent registered nurse that is able to efficiently assess patients, interpret clinical data, and perform nursing interventions.