

**Janice Balaba**

**February 22, 2025**

Preceptorship Reflection 2

I completed my preceptorship in the NICU today, and looking back, it has been an incredibly valuable learning experience. Over the past ten days, I gained both knowledge and hands-on education that have helped me grow as a nurse. Every day in the NICU presented new challenges, but with each one, I learned something that will shape the way I care for my future patients.

One case that stood out to me involved a neonate with a potassium level of 3. The doctor had ordered Lasix, but my preceptor questioned the order since potassium was already low. When she asked the doctor about it, he explained that because the baby had not been producing urine all day, potassium might actually be stored in the body's interstitial space. This meant the lab result didn't reflect the true potassium level, and giving Lasix was still safe. That day, both my preceptor and I learned something new, reinforcing the importance of questioning orders and seeking clarification when necessary.

I also had an interesting interaction with a parent during my preceptorship. One day, a mother asked me where the placenta came from, wondering if it had come from her husband. I was caught off guard by the question and wasn't sure how to respond at first, but I explained what I knew about the placenta and its function in pregnancy. This experience reminded me how important it is to communicate effectively with parents, especially when they have concerns or misconceptions about their baby's care.

Throughout this experience, I have learned the importance of critical thinking, teamwork, and precision in neonatal care. The NICU requires a high level of attention to detail, strong communication skills, and the ability to stay calm in high-pressure situations. Moving forward, I will apply these lessons by being more vigilant when administering medications, double-checking every step to ensure patient safety, and collaborating with my team to provide the best possible care.

Additionally, this experience has reinforced the value of patient and family education, reminding me to always take the time to explain procedures and answer questions with patience and empathy. Everything I have learned during this preceptorship will serve as a foundation for my future nursing practice, guiding me to be a more confident and competent nurse.

