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Final Clinical Reflection
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After completing ten shifts as a nurse with my preceptor, I can confidently say that I have learned many valuable skills and significantly improved in my assessments, medication administration, and patient-centered care. This preceptorship has provided me with the confidence and hands-on experience necessary to familiarize myself with the responsibilities of a registered nurse (RN). Each shift has brought new challenges and learning opportunities.

From my first day on the floor, I recognized that my assessment skills needed improvement. Initially, I relied heavily on my stethoscope, but I soon realized that a thorough assessment goes beyond listening to heart, lung, and bowel sounds. I learned to observe my patients holistically from the moment I introduced myself. By noting their mental status, facial expressions, body language, and overall demeanor. As my confidence grew, I became more proficient in differentiating between normal and abnormal heart sounds, lung sounds, and bowel sounds. Additionally, I learned the correct placement and verification of nasogastric (NG) tubes. Charting as I practiced documenting my findings correctly with my preceptor guiding me.

Medication administration was another critical area where I saw immense growth. Initially, I felt nervous about giving medications, but with practice and guidance from my preceptor, I became more comfortable and independent in the process. Each time I entered a patient's room with my medications, I took the time to explain what I was administering, ensuring they understood the purpose and effects of each drug. I diligently followed the seven rights of medication administration—right patient, right drug, right dose, right route, right time, right reason, and right documentation—while scanning and documenting in the electronic medication administration record (EMAR). Through these experiences, I also learned different medication administration to individual patient needs, such as determining whether a patient could swallow multiple pills at once or require them to be split. Just this week at clinical, I gained experience in crushing and administering medications through a percutaneous endoscopic gastrostomy (PEG) tube.

One of the most valuable lessons I have learned is that no two shifts are ever the same. Some days are more challenging than others, with constant medication rounds, while other days may involve fewer tasks but more critical thinking and patient care interventions. On some shifts, we go through fifty flushes a day, while on others, we may only need five. The diversity of patients and disease processes has opened my eyes. Working on a cardiac floor, I have gained a deeper appreciation for teamwork among nurses, nursing aides, and charge nurses. I may not know everything, but that is okay. I

have alot of knowledge from nursing school and I cant wait to apply this knowledge to real life situations.