

Midterm Reflection

For the past 5 shifts that I have spent in the NICU, there's one specific patient I would like to talk about today. This patient was the first one I took care of at the beginning of my preceptorship, I was really nervous as I didn't know what to expect but being able to take care of this tiny baby reinforced my passion for wanting to work in the NICU. When I first got report on the baby and heard that he was only 3 lbs and was having difficulty breathing on his own, I immediately panicked because I didn't know if I would be able to take care of the patient like a nurse should be able to. The truth is, as soon as I started caring for the baby with the help of my nurse, all of the nervousness I was feeling instantly went away. It felt as if I was meant to take care of this baby and I knew from that moment moving forward it would all be okay. I also had the pleasure of meeting this patient's family, I was able to introduce myself with the help of my nurse. I told them that I would be taking care of their baby all while being under the supervision of my nurse and they were so understanding and kind to me, which made it easier for me to take care of their baby without feeling pressured while they were watching me. Now every time I see the parents in the unit, they thank me for taking care of their baby and for doing while learning and with love. This tiny baby has no idea of how much he has impacted me to pursue my dream job even more, he was like a confirmation from God that this is the place for me, the place where my heart feels drawn to. With that being said, spending 5 shifts in the NICU has opened my eyes to how much this place feels like home. I have always been drawn to the NICU but being able to spend 12 hour shifts here and being allowed to do skills independently, made all of it more official for me. I have learned so many things, from how to hold a baby, to how to insert NG & OG tubes, to how to administer fluids and so much more. Most of the skills that I have done so far have come very naturally to me, but others not so much. Things such as holding babies and bonding with them while doing cares have been what has come naturally to me and one of my favorite things to do here. Other things, such as charting and being able to manage my care times for each baby have been a little bit more difficult, as I'm barely navigating what works best for me when it comes to these things. As I progress and I start on my last 5 shifts, I want to be able to improve on the skills that I am still struggling to manage, as well as the ones that I've been doing well on. I want to be able to practice and learn the best that I can, as I would love to work in the NICU once I graduate Covenant School of Nursing.