

Avery Baldree

Midterm Reflection

For my preceptorship, I was placed in the Neuro Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Being placed on this floor was very exciting for me but also nerve wracking. Throughout my first 5 shifts I have gotten to know what it feels like to care for patients for a whole 12-hours. My preceptor, Brenna, has been better than I could have even imagined. She takes the time to explain things to me and makes sure that I understand them so that I can perform the tasks that are required for that patient. Being able to care for patients and their families in their most critical and vulnerable times is a very big passion for me. I have loved getting to test my critical thinking, learning new skills, and understanding the disease processes of my patients. I have gotten to take care of patients that had a subarachnoid hemorrhage, aneurysms, stroke-like symptoms, and altered mental status. I have improved on performing neuro exams, titrating medications, and interacting with patients and their families. I have also enjoyed learning the documentation process and what all goes into charting for your patient for an admission, transfer, and the hourly charting that gets complete throughout the shift.

The patient that I have been taking care of the past 3 shifts was brought in from Midland with a fall that resulted in a subarachnoid hemorrhage. When she arrived to Covenant she was taken immediately to IR for an embolization and coiling. When our shift started that morning, she was being brought back to the floor. She was very difficult to arouse. Brenna and I checked her eyes and noticed she had bilateral downward gaze. We went down for a STAT CT and that showed she had developed hydrocephalus. When we got back up from CT the doctor decided to do an emergent bedside EVD. This was my first time watching an EVD placed, and it then made sense how placing this helps relieve that pressure and removes the fluid. After the patient woke up, she was experiencing terrible nausea and vomiting so during this time, I stayed in the patient's room and got to help her through some nonpharmacologic therapies to help with the nausea. I also learned how to space out PRN medications and learn that some nausea medications work better than others just depending on the patient. She and her family were so appreciative for the care that Brenna and I were providing them and even though it was a difficult few days, her and her family, being so thankful, made it all worth it and reminded me why I want to do this job.

Getting to experience these situations is eye-opening for me but it also confirms that this is what I want to do, and that I want to be the person to help people when they cannot help or care for themselves. Faith 4 is probably the best floor that I have ever been apart of. The staff on this floor really make you feel welcomed and are there to help anytime you need it. Now, I am excited to say that I have a job on Faith 4 after graduation and I could not be more excited.