

Jordan Colley
Midterm Reflection
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I was placed in the Medical Intensive Care Unit for my preceptorship. Being able to experience this floor and the patients that they take care of has truly been an honor. I have enjoyed not only learning more about my skills, medications and disease processes but also getting to know the staff on this floor. I have been able to take care of patients on CRRT, patients with metabolic acidosis, patients on insulin drips and have even been involved in a code blue. I have really been able to improve on my ability to perform medication administration when dealing with drips, pumps, continuous infusions, and my critical thinking. I have also been able to become accommodated to the documentation process. Being a student I, of course, do not have full ability to care for a patient on my own, but through this process I have been able to see what it would feel and look like. My preceptor has been a great role model as a nurse and has been able to teach me throughout the whole process. They always include me on discussions as well as treatments for the patients.

My very first patient that I was assigned to with my nurse was a lady on CRRT who first arrived in the ED due to a syncopal episode and weakness. Upon arrival they drew labs and discovered that her pH was 6.6. They could not figure out how she was still alert and oriented and able to have full conversations with them. They discovered that her kidneys were not functioning, and she was experiencing metabolic acidosis. After a few days being on CRRT her labs came back to more stable levels, allowing her to come off CRRT. Throughout the whole process she kept thanking my nurse and I for helping her. She would say that we helped save her life and she would forever be grateful for our kindness and patience with her. After working nearly 40 hours in 3 days, it is easy to become “worn out” or question if you are even meant to be there. However, after this patient poured out her thanks to us, I was internally jumping for joy because I remembered that I truly do love this line of work. I loved getting to be a part of this patient’s care and see the things that we talk about in class come to life, but I also really enjoyed being able to make a connection with my patient and be there for them when they needed it most.

Before beginning the preceptorship, I was very nervous because I wasn’t sure what to expect. However, the first shift my nerves were gone because the unit made me feel so welcomed and helped me wherever I needed it. In the beginning I thought to myself that I wasn’t sure if I was ready or competent to be taking care of patients. These thoughts that I was having did not last long because I was able to apply what I have learned in class and previous clinicals to the patients that I was taking care of, more than I thought I would be able to. Every day that I go to the hospital is a learning experience. I never fail to go home at the end of the day with new information and more incite than when I arrived that day. I am always experiencing something that I have not experienced before and am always grateful for it.