

Midterm Clinical Reflection

I will be going over my first 5 shifts in the Adult Emergency Department and the types of experiences I encountered. On my first day I wasn't sure what to expect and was slightly nervous about how it would go. I soon realized that I absolutely loved the ED and have enjoyed every shift I have worked with my preceptor. Each day and each patient brought new challenges to the table and gave me experiences to learn and expand my capabilities of critically thinking but also my ability in trying to figure out a Nursing diagnosis for these patients based on their signs and symptoms. One night we had a lot of patients who came in complaining of stomach pain and even though they all were experiencing the same issue did not mean that they were going to have the same diagnosis. I had one that had Appendicitis, one who turned out to be pregnant and one who was having an exacerbation of Diverticulitis. This helped me to put into perspective that even though these people came in with some of the same signs and symptoms, that they would all be diagnosed with something different. We would then have to come up with a different nursing plan for each of them and base their treatment on their issue.

I was able to experience and observe many skills but also practice many things that I will become more comfortable with as time goes on and as I practice. I was able to see a stroke code, code blue and care for a patient who was incarcerated and had to be brought to the hospital. I was able to sit in and watch an NG tube be placed on a patient who was still awake and that was something I had never seen before with most patients already being intubated and sedated. I was also able to see an open fracture of the leg of a patient who had just been in a motor vehicle crash and the protocol of what they do for open fractures. Overall, I can say that my first day versus my fifth day in the ED I am already so much more confident in my ability to do task, and I

am so excited. On my first day I had a few IV starts and by my fifth day I confidently started IVs on all our patients who required one. This preceptorship has been nothing short of amazing and I am excited to see what the ED brings to me on my last five shifts.