

Pediatric ED Reflection Questions

1. What types of patients (diagnoses) did you see in the PED?

I saw mainly children who had strep or other infections like the flu. There were two patients who had chronic illnesses that they had to transfer to Cooks Children Hospital. There was also a patient who was brought to the ED because of aggressive behavior and they were waiting on CPS.

2. The majority of the patients who came into the PED were from which age group? Was this what you expected?

There was an equal number of toddlers and adolescent children. This is what I expected, I expected there to be kids from all ages.

3. Was your overall experience different than what you expected? Please give examples.

My experience was pretty much what I expected it to be. I really enjoyed my time in the ED. I got to see the nurses start quite a few IV's and it was interesting watching them work together to keep the patients calm and still.

4. How did growth and development come into play when caring for patients (both in triage and in treatment rooms)?

The nurses had to treat each patient differently based on their developmental level. For the younger children they were afraid of most of the things we had to do. We had to explain everything including the blood pressure machine to keep them from getting scared. However for the older children they understood that the blood pressure cuff wouldn't hurt so we approached them a little differently.

5. What types of procedures did you observe or assist with?

I observed throat swabs and the nurses starting IV's. I also took the vital signs of all the incoming patients.

6. What community acquired diseases are trending currently?

There were a lot of patients that came in with strep and flu-like symptoms.

7. What community mental health trends are being seen in the pediatric population?

Currently there are a lot of patients coming in with depression and anxiety.

8. How does the staff debrief after a traumatic event? Why is debriefing important?

They have therapy sessions that they can go to twice a month. It is important for them to talk about their feelings and not bottle up the traumatic events that they face.

9. What is the process for triaging patients in the PED?

They are seen by the receptionist and have vital signs taken, then they are brought back and the nurse does whatever the doctor has ordered for them.

10. What role does the Child Life Specialist play in the PED?

The child life specialist will come down and help distract patients who are having an invasive procedure. They will give them toys or an ipad to play with and help ease their anxiety about what they have to have done.