

Preceptorship Final Reflection

As I reflect on the last 5 shifts that I spent in the NICU for my preceptorship, I would like to talk about a specific event that changed my perspective on a lot of things. On my second to last shift we had a mom come in for an emergency delivery, she was 38 weeks, the baby was breeched, and he was already halfway out. In the NICU we were already preparing ourselves to take care of this baby once he or she was delivered because we knew things were not looking good. While we were preparing the bed for this baby, the code blue light went off and the code team rushed to the OR room in which this baby was being delivered. This situation was very scary and overwhelming for me because during my 5 first shifts I didn't experience something so chaotic where we were faced with a life or death situation. All I could do at that moment was pray for this baby and his or her family. After about an hour, the code time came back to the NICU, some of them were crying and they told us that after performing 30 minutes of compressions on this baby, and so many rounds of epi, they decided to call the code off. It was a very emotional situation for the whole unit, as for me, I was extremely emotional the rest of the night but I also took it as a learning experience. These nurses give it their all to take care of these babies and keep them safe, and it doesn't always end well. It is a hard concept to grasp, but as I sat there the rest of the night I realized that there's nothing more that I want to do than to always do my best to take care of my patients. Even if things don't always end how we expect them to, I want to be proud of the work that I did to help my patients survive and be well. Being able to complete my preceptorship in the NICU was truly a blessing. I have learned that I have a true passion for working with tiny humans and helping them become the strongest version of themselves so that they can go home to their beautiful families. I learned so much from my preceptor, from how to perform skills effectively, how to communicate with overwhelmed and stressed parents, to how to properly chart information on Epic and how to give a good handoff report to the upcoming nurse. My confidence in working with these babies increased as the days progressed, my time management during care times significantly improved as well. There are so many things that I still need to improve on, but I am extremely proud of how far I've come in the span of 8 weeks and I hope that when I start off on my nursing career, I can get the opportunity to be a part of the NICU team so that I can continue to grow the passion that I have for working with these tiny patients and become the best version of myself as a nurse.