

The last five clinicals have given me a mixture of feelings. I have felt excited, nervous and sad as it has come to an end. I have looked forward to every clinical, however every patient is different and may have specific care that makes me nervous. I have learned to take the time and look at the mother's medical history so that as a nurse you can expect certain things and care for that individual patient. My knowledge about mom/baby has grown tremendously so that by the end of my clinicals I was performing so many skills independently with minimal guidance. I know everything required to perform a 24-hour assessment on baby and what the guidelines are that must be met in order for baby to be discharged. I know the hospital protocols for routinely checking babies' bilirubin and when to contact the physician to obtain an order for phototherapy. While I have gained so much confidence there are some areas, I know I need to develop and improve. For example, clustering care, and time management. There were many times where I found myself leaving a patient's room numerous times and returning because I forgot something I needed, or the patient requested something additional. I would like to get better at anticipating my patients' needs by really getting to know them. This goes hand in hand with time management. More often than not you find yourself in a patient's room longer than expected, so you have to be able to space out your care times without rushing yourself. As a nurse I learned that you cannot let yourself get behind because you will spend the rest of the day playing catch up with your care and your charting. Overall, aside from learning the skills and protocols of the unit, I learn that teamwork is the most valuable asset anyone can express as an individual and as a unit.