

The first five shifts were long and extremely hectic. There were many code blues on my first three shifts. I was able to do compressions and we were luckily able to revive all three patients. On my very first shift for my capstone, we had a patient that we believed was stable enough to go home. However, due to a small catch of the arm swelling up which we later found out was due to a small clot the patient during that time ended up going into Afib with RVR. I was able to see how each member of the medical team responded to try and bring the patient out of the rhythm.

At the beginning of my preceptorship, I was feeling very overwhelmed and stressed out. I felt as though I was more of a hinderance than help. However, I was the one who caught the swelling of the patient's arm and my preceptor Olivia was happy that I caught it and that we did not send her home especially since the time between getting the ultrasound she went into Afib RVR. This made me feel like I was able to begin critically thinking and that I am able to head in the correct direction. Recently I was able to catch a change in pupil dilation in one of my intubated patients and was able to notify my preceptor Olivia who notified the fellow. Being able to catch these things makes me feel like I am able to notice changes in my patients and find ways to get help.

I found it difficult to learn when to ask my preceptor questions at the correct times since we were extremely busy. However, she did put me in the forefront of the chaos which I appreciated that way I could get firsthand experience with the codes and learn how to fit into the chaotic situations.

I learned to see that some of my questions could have been perceived as me questioning authority in front of her colleagues or patients which I was able to communicate with Olivia that it was not my intention at all. I learned to withhold my questions to be asked until we are at the computer desks alone or in the medication room if we are not running behind. With all that I have learned and adapted throughout the five shifts is to better understand and communicate better in a student role. I learned that at times it is best to observe rather than to speak out unless it is for direct patient harm.

For the next five shifts what I plan to do differently is to keep up with my charting and to quicken my medication administration. This will allow me and Olivia more time to go over questions I may have and for her to teach me anything she deems necessary for the situations that arise for the shift we are in. I can apply this preceptorship to my orientation for my GN job when I graduate as I will need to observe and learn as a new graduate on how to safely take over patients in my new role.