

Winn, Scotlynn Clinical Reflection 1

Clinicals thus far has definitely given me a huge boost in confidence. I've worked in the NICU for three years as a PCT and NT, but switching to nursing is allowing me to see a whole different side.

My first day in the unit my preceptor and I were on the higher acuity side. We had two patients; one was a premature patient that we had for almost 130 days. This patient was still on ventilator assisted CPAP and was working on increasing feedings through her NG tube. Our other patient for the day was also a preemie, but not quite as young or as sick. We were expecting a possible twin admission later in the day; during huddle it was mentioned that L&D was doing a twin c-section at 5pm. The beginning of my shift went by really well, which I was grateful for, as it allowed me to start getting ahold of the charting. At around 1pm the charge nurse got a call that L&D decided to do the c-section early. She went up on the c-section and called us to let us know that we would be getting one of the twins. We got the bed ready and sat there waiting on them to arrive. Right before they left L&D it was decided that the second twin needed to come to the NICU as well. The second charge nurse asked me to come with her for a second set of hands; we were glad that she asked me to go with her because both of the respiratory therapists had gone with the first admission. We got the second twin down to the unit, and honestly it was a mess. My nurse and I were working back and forth on both of the admits with the charge nurses. The other nurses in our pod were busy with their own patients and helped when they could. When we got the patients stable and in a spot that allowed us to take a breather, my nurse finally had a chance to teach me through what was happening. I was glad that my first shift worked out the way it did, despite how busy it ended up. It allowed me to see the work flow in the unit when we receive an admit, and how the unit bands together however they can to take care of each other's patients.

I was definitely nervous to be taking care of these patients in a different capacity, but Sydnee reminded me that I already knew what I was doing, I just had to add in a few more steps to enter the nursing role. I definitely forgot to assess the first time, so I had to mess with my patient for a second time, which I hate doing. I have definitely grown in this. It's like first nature now to do an assessment during my first care time, to check their respiratory support once an hour, and check their feeding tube placement before every feeding. I feel more confident speaking with the parents and giving report to the oncoming nurse. I'm excited to see what the last 5 shifts hold for my education.