

## Midterm Reflection

- Describe your feelings about your participation in Clinicals.  
I feel as though I've made it a point to involve myself in patient cases from start to finish. I enjoy seeing things through whether I am the primary on the case or just observing. I do feel as though I could be doing more skills; however, when the opportunity presents itself I always jump on it with confidence. I, also, cannot control what cases come in that will allow me to shine in that aspect. I have full respect for my nurse and for client safety being the priority. I am pleased with where I am at and progressing, but I am very critical on myself only because I want to ensure that when I am the nurse, whose job is to protect my patients, that I am genuinely ready and not going through the motions until an abnormality happens and I choke.
- How did it go compared to what you expected it to be like?  
I would say it is a bit less hectic than I would think, but not slow in any way. Everyone is very organized and I find it incredibly useful to see the different nursing styles from everyone on the unit. It makes me think about different styles for different applications/cases. I also think everyone is much nicer than I thought they'd be, because of the reputation of ER nurses. They have made me feel incredibly welcomed and I'd really love to work with them further in the future.
- What went well?  
I feel what I've done a good job of showing that I want to be present regardless of an open position or not. I enjoy learning and every clinical experience is something I want to utilize to be a better nurse in the future. I also think the variety in patient/case types has been beneficial to be in order to see the different protocols and actions taken. I've gotten to see cases ranging from No issues at all, to possible paralysis, to those dealing with serious legal issues. I also met the nurse manager and let her know that while a position is not open I wanted to introduce myself and throw my hat in the ring in order to be considered if something does open up. Afterward, she let me know there would likely be a GN position opening within the next couple of weeks. Not a guarantee but a step in the right direction.
- What could have gone better?  
For me, just being a bit more involved in the skills aspect of care. Maybe being a bit more assertive about it, but not overtly as I understand my nurse may not feel comfortable with me essentially "practicing" on higher acuity patients. That is completely okay. I also feel as though my patient communication can be better in the area of discharge and comfort- I typically am a very quiet and calm/ almost monotone person and being able to let my guard down and talk to babies/smaller children in a more cutesy tone is something I'd like to get more comfortable in doing. I love kids, I just get shy.
- How did that experience affect you?

I just get critical about things due to the fact that I know my own potential and I do not like to feel as though I am falling below a certain standard that I hold myself to. I am not expected to, nor do I think I know everything. However, I make it a point to learn from both my strengths and weaknesses.

- How have these weeks impacted client communication or healthcare team communications?

I see how assertive nurses can be and should be. Many will question an order if they feel it is not in the patient's best interest or will ask the doctor multiple times if there is confusion on an order. They are willing to do what needs to be done for the patient and not for their own ego and pride. That being said, strong communication between both nurses and the majority of Dr's and NP's that does not feel conflicting or confrontational. There is a healthy respect there, for the most part. This clinical experience has also helped me see what a full time nurse's schedule could look/feel like. I was very concerned about if I'd be able to handle those types of hours, but now I feel confident in my ability, especially 4 days in a row to start.

- How will you use the knowledge gained from this experience in your practice as a registered nurse?

I honestly, just feel like every case is a new learning experience. Something is always different whether its something small or something bigger/more significant to client health. The variety is teaching me to take every patient at face value and to treat them all as if at any moment something could go wrong and what my job is to prevent that. To care. Communication is key, ensuring you know how to ask for help but also how to ask a fellow nurse or coworker if they need help without making them feel inadequate. I'm being taught how to work as a team and the do's and don'ts of the PEDI ED. I am very grateful to be on this unit and I hope to work here in the future.