

Pediatric ED Reflection Questions

1. What types of patients (diagnoses) did you see in the PED?

I saw patients with accidental injuries, as well as a patient presenting with self-harm behaviors.

2. The majority of the patients who came into the PED were from which age group? Was this what you expected?

Most patients were school-age children through adolescents. Yes, this aligned with my expectations since this age group is more prone to injuries, risk-taking behaviors, and mental health concerns.

3. Was your overall experience different than what you expected? Please give examples.

Yes, I expected the Pediatric ED to move at a faster pace.

4. How did growth and development come into play when caring for patients (both in triage and in treatment rooms)?

Growth and development influenced how staff approached each child. For example, younger children require more simple language, while adolescents respond better to being directly involved in their care.

5. What types of procedures did you observe or assist with?

I observed wound care, including cleaning and dressing.

6. What community acquired diseases are trending currently?

Respiratory infections are most common with stomach viruses.

7. What community mental health trends are being seen in the pediatric population?

There is a noticeable increase in self-harm and suicidal ideation among adolescents, often related to stress, anxiety, and depression.

8. How does the staff debrief after a traumatic event? Why is debriefing important?

I didn't witness a traumatic event during my experience but debriefing can allow staff to process emotions, review what went well, and identify areas for improvement.

9. What is the process for triaging patients in the PED?

The triage nurse collects history, symptoms, and vital signs, then prioritizes patients based on the urgency of their condition.

10. What role does the Child Life Specialist play in the PED?

The Child Life Specialist helps children and families cope with the stress and trauma of hospitalization. They provide emotional support, explain procedures in child-friendly terms, and use play or distraction techniques to reduce fear and anxiety.