

Women's and Children's Reflection 2

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After completing my final clinical in module 8 and in nursing school ever, it becomes very bittersweet. Reflecting on each and every clinical I have ever had and realizing how much I have grown is truly amazing. From going day one to being shy and not too confident, to now being confident in mainly everything thing I do reassures me that I know I can be the best nurse I can be.

As I added more and more days of me being on the floor, at first I questioned if I could take on multiple patients. Now seeing the confidence I have not only in my nursing care but my documentation and SBAR its not a question that I can do this. Being able to critically think and slowly put things together makes all the stressful days worth it. For instance, there were times with a specific patient where his potassium was elevated and I had asked if he needed to be put on telemetry due to me knowing what potassium can do to the heart. With this same patient, he had developed ascites and I had noticed we weren't measuring his abdominal girth and I also had asked my preceptor if we needed to do that. So just the little things I realized I noticed from what we had been learning makes me feel like I am not only understanding but retaining information we were taught.

I also got to experience the hard nursing can hand you. My nurse and I had got assigned a patient whose family was difficult. Getting in report all the difficulties they were causing and that they DID NOT like nursing students was discouraging to me at first. But once we stepped in the room and started caring for our patient, none of that mattered to me. This certain little girl was an oncology patient so it made me realize that my possibly one bad and hard day could not even compare to the life she was delt. We gave her and her family the best attitude we could and it turned out to be a better day than I was expecting. We ended up getting to send this family home after them being there for about a month. The patient gave all the nurses hugs goodbye and the mom actually thanked us for all we did while being teary eyed. So in the back of my head it makes me realize how tough certain situations can be and how I have to take into consideration what these patients and their families may be feeling and why they act the way they do sometimes.

Even though caring for kids is hard, its rewarding getting to see them go home and improving slowly every day. Also being able to not only getting the kids to trust us but the parents as well. I could only imagine the feeling parents have seeing their babies in the hospital. So being able to still communicate with the kids and parents and making them feel safe is so important. Especially being on the oncology/overflow unit for peds and seeing the relationships the nurses built with the entire family was amazing to see. In a kids hardest time in life, giving them that little bit of joy I can imagine means the world to them and their family.

Im very thankful that we got to have this opportunity and work the 10 days we were given. It has improved my confidence and skills. I now know I am able to successfully draw labs, start IVs, find therapeutic ways to get the kids to take nasty medicine and comfort my patients with less anxiety. One of my favorite parts about this is being able to work with my mom for the

little time I had. Getting to see her as nurse was pretty incredible. It gave me motivation to be the good in the chaos the hospital can have. So I am truly grateful for this experience that this school allows us to have.