

Pediatric ED Reflection Questions

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

The first patient came in complaining of abdominal and groin pain. The next patient came in complaining about pain and swelling in their arm. Two patients came in with asthma. Another patient came in complaining of right abdominal pain. The remainder of the other patients that came in complained of headache and fever.

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

The majority of the patients who came into the PED were pre-school aged. I did expect to see more pre-school and school-aged children in the PED compared to infants and adolescents.

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

My experience in the PED was mostly what I expected. I knew that there was a likely chance of experiencing more quiet periods than moments of seeing patients back-to-back. I also knew that I would likely see patients with more common complaints such as fever.

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

Growth and development came into play in triage when the nurse addressed each patient appropriately for their developmental age. She would teach the pre-school-aged patients to breathe in through their nose and out their mouths to calm them during getting their blood pressure checked.

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

I did not observe any procedures, but I did see retractions on the patient for the first time and listened to wheezing.

6. What community acquired diseases are trending currently?

Influenza and RSV are currently trending as the season for spread draws nearer.

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

Anxiety and Depression are being seen more in the pediatric population, particularly in adolescents.

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

Staff comes together to discuss what happened during the event and process their emotions.

They also discuss what went right or wrong with the event and how they learned from the experience. Debriefing is important because it allows staff to learn and improve from an event as well as give them an opportunity to communicate their feelings.

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

Patients are called to a triage room to answer questions about their visit to the PED and get their vital signs checked. After the nurse receives all of the necessary information about a patient, the nurse leads them to a treatment room and assigns them a number ranging from 1 to 5. If a patient receives a 5 in the chart, it means they are displaying symptoms typically seen at urgent care facilities such as ear infections. The lower the number, the more potentially urgent the case. The nurse has to make judgment on which patient most likely needs to be seen first by a physician.

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

Child Life offers support and coping strategies to children in the PED who are about to have a procedure done such as an X-ray. The specialist will explain to the child about the procedure in a manner that is appropriate for their developmental age.