

Module 8 Midterm Reflection

Before starting my preceptorship, I was very excited but also nervous. I am so glad I got the opportunity to be in the neonatal intensive care unit, because it is where I would like to work! Going into my first day, I already felt more relaxed when I met my preceptor. Kayla is very sweet and a lot of fun. Being in the NICU makes my heart happy. I love getting to see all of the precious babies and help them in their time at the hospital. I also love getting to create a relationship with the mom of the baby. I feel like I have done well communicating with the parents and also handling the babies. On my first day I had a 3lb baby, and I felt timid when I did his cares, but just after that one day I already felt more confident and comfortable handling each baby. I love the team dynamic as well. Everyone is very helpful and each baby takes a team for their care plan. One of my babies I was caring for started dropping his oxygen levels and I got to see the teamwork that happened to help get that baby stabilized. I have gotten to see rounds take place and listen to the nurse practitioners and doctors talk to the parents. After just 3 days in the NICU, I have learned so much. I have already given a vaccine to a baby, given report to a night shift nurse, began charting, and started feeds. I also got to see a dad hold his baby for the first time, and it was so sweet! I still have so much to learn and so much I can improve on. I definitely want to improve on my assessment of each baby and charting the assessment. I would like to give a baby a bath. I would also like to improve my time management and take on more patients. My last shift I took on one patient, so I would like to see myself improve by taking on another patient. I am getting more comfortable each day, and I am excited to see myself on shift 10 compared to now. Doing this preceptorship in the NICU has not only helped me learn so much, but helped me to be more confident in myself and realize that I can do this. I will use everything that I have learned to improve my patient care by being confident in myself, communicating better to the parents, handling each patient confidently, and helping each baby in their individualized needs.