

Outpatient Surgery Reflection Questions

1. What types of patients (diagnoses/surgical procedures) did you see in the Outpatient Surgery?

I saw several procedures the one that I followed from start to finish was a bilateral ingrown toenail removal.

2. The majority of the patients who came into the Outpatient Surgery were from which age group?

Was this what you expected?

I saw a very wide array of ages from 2 years old all the way to 16 years old. It is pretty much what I expected.

3. How did growth and development come into play when caring for patients (both in preop and in postop rooms)?

Growth and development played a big role. The main thing was would have been how the patients dealt with the anxiety of the surgery, and then the teachings before and after. It was also very interesting watching the nurses put in IV's for the different age groups.

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

I assisted with several IV starts and then taking vitals pre and post op. I also helped with discharge teaching.

5. What are some common post-op instructions given to the patient/caregivers?

The main things were medication instructions, and post op surgical care. For example, with the bilateral ingrown toenail removal we taught the patient and parent how to care for the surgical site.

6. Give examples of non-pharmacological comfort nursing interventions you saw preop and postop?

They had the TV's in the rooms playing cartoons. And while we were doing the IV's we were talking to the patients and keeping them distracted.

7. What complications (red flags) from anesthesia did you watch for and how did you monitor?

The main thing that I was told to watch was respiratory rate and blood pressure.

8. What is the process for obtaining a procedural consent for a pediatric patient?

We would give instructions to the patient if they were developmentally able to understand and then we would also give that same information to the parent. Before the procedure they would ask the parent to put the procedure into their own words just to make sure that everyone was on the same page.

9. How does the NPO status change based on age or if infant takes breast milk vs formula?

I believe that they still want the infant to get nutrients to support growth and development.

10. What role does the Child Life Specialist play in the Outpatient Surgery? If not observed, how could they be part of your interdisciplinary team?

I did not observe child life during my time in outpatient surgery but I was told that they come very often. And they would be a big part of the team in distracting, and and helping educate.