

Final Reflection

What feelings did you experience in clinical today? Why?

As I complete my preceptorship, I feel a mix of excitement and nervousness. Looking back to the beginning of my preceptorship, I can see how much I have improved. I feel more confident, capable, and aware. I recognize the areas that I still want to strengthen, such as time management and communication. Continuing to build a strong foundation to improve my clinical and technical skills is important so I can grow my nursing knowledge and prepare for my future role as a nurse.

What did you already know and do well as you provided patient care today?

I knew the importance of treating every patient with respect and integrity. During my shift, I cared for a patient whose leg was necrotic and required amputation. The patient was nonverbal and unable to swallow; therefore, the ethics team was consulted to determine whether the surgery could move forward. Despite the patient's limited communication, I treated the patient the same as any other patient by offering choices when possible, promoting independence, and creating a calm and dignified environment.

Later, when the patient's estranged daughter came to visit, my preceptor and I were surprised to hear the patient speak clearly and logically. The patient expressed willingness to proceed with the amputation to prevent future complications. By consistently treating the patient

with respect and integrity, I hope I helped them feel comfortable and dignified during a difficult time.

What areas do you need to develop or improve?

Upon completing my preceptorship, I recognize that I need to continue improving my time management skills. By strengthening this area, I can stay more focused, provide meaningful time with my patients, and maintain flexibility when unexpected situations arise. I also want to improve my ability to access and review the patient's chart more effectively. By learning to quickly identify and filter out the most important information, I can deliver safer and more informed care. This skill will also help me provide clearer and more efficient SBAR reports to the incoming nurse, ensuring effective communication within the healthcare team.

What did you learn today?

Although I understand the importance of assessing a patient and avoiding assumptions, my shift on Mercy 7 helped me grasp why. During one of my shifts, the night nurse mentioned that a geriatric patient had been placed on a tele-sitter overnight but did not explain the reason. Later that day, my preceptor and I were preparing to place a lidocaine patch on the patient. The patient's family, who were at the bedside, expressed concern over a large bruise on the patient's back. After applying the patch to the back, a large contusion was noted. When we asked the patient how the injury occurred, the family intervened and stated the patient had fallen in the bathroom last night. However, the patient was unable to walk or reposition in bed. Although my preceptor and I can assume that the patient cannot lift themselves off the floor, assumptions can lead to medical errors and interfere with the patient's health progress. After thoroughly assessing

the patient for further injuries related to the fall, we completed a fall report. We later learned that the patient broke their collarbone.

How will you apply what was learned to improve your patient care?

This experience reinforced that thorough assessments, clear communication, avoiding assumptions, and asking why interventions are in place (such as a tele-sitter) are essential to providing safe, high-quality nursing care. The alleged fall incident showed me how easily important details can be missed when assumptions replace proper assessment. It reminded me that if I do not know the reason behind something, I must ask. By taking the time to assess the patient, including the posterior side, critical information can be identified early. I learned the importance of advocating for the patient and ensuring complete, accurate documentation. Moving forward, I will apply this learning experience to my everyday practice to protect both my license and my patients.