

I have completed my ten shifts on the pediatric floor and pediatric oncology/overflow unit. I have learned so much about how to take care of children and babies and how their diagnoses are treated. I have enjoyed my time during clinicals because it brought me so much joy to provide care to the pediatric population. I have had the opportunity to observe patients having procedures such as lumbar punctures and skin biopsies. I have also helped monitor my patients receiving chemotherapy.

Throughout my ten shifts I have felt excited and nervous to take care of pediatric patients, but over time I became more confident in my skills and communication with the children. I realized I was improving in my communication skills when my six year old patient, who was diagnosed with Leukemia, was about to have a lumbar puncture and I noticed that she was scared about her procedure so I started a conversation with her about her coloring page which made her feel more comfortable with me. As a result of this, the patient wanted me in the room with her during the procedure because I made her feel less scared.

One of my more memorable patients was a 2 month old female who was diagnosed with spina bifida occulta, a tethered spinal cord, and benign spinal cord tumor. The baby had surgery to remove the tumor so she had been crying a lot and was very hard to console. She and her mother were in the hospital for a few days, but the day of the patient's discharge the mother was reluctant to go home and was very upset. My preceptor asked her questions about why she is worried about going home and if there was anything we could do to help. It turns out that she was a single mother with a small number of people who were willing to help her with the baby and she was very overwhelmed. My nurse told her to take her time with going home and suggested that she take a break and go outside while we stayed with the baby. The mother took her advice and came back to the baby's room feeling a little more relaxed and ready to go home. This interaction taught me that it is important to tell the parents that it is okay to take a break and regroup so they are able to safely care for their children.

I have practiced and grew confidence in medication administration and assessments. I have also improved in documentation and staying caught up with my tasks. Areas I still need to improve on are SBAR and report to the oncoming nurse. I would also like to work on my critical thinking skills and knowing why we are giving certain medications for specific diagnoses. I will use what I have learned during the preceptorship in my own practice to take better care of my patients.