

## IM8 Midterm Reflection

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These past 4 clinical days, I have been at the NICU. Each day has been a new great experience. On the first day, I was very nervous but excited. We had a low acuity assignment with 3 patients. This gave us enough time to walk through everything and learn how to care for the infants. I already knew how to change their diapers and take their temperatures, but I did not have much experience feeding them. Feeding a NICU infant is very different than feeding a regular infant. I learned that these infants need to be sitting almost fully up and side-lying. Also, they need to be paced. This means you will only partially fill the nipple. I also figured out that if you pull the nipple out of their mouth, it confuses them. If they need a break, you just tilt the bottle and have the nipple empty while keeping it in their mouth. On one of the other shifts, I had 2 high acuity infants. One had a cleft lip and cleft palate. This infant was also intubated. It was very different seeing the infant be intubated through the nose. Our care was very slow and very tedious. I was very nervous for the first care. I learned how to suction his mouth and nose. I also got to see his itty-bitty PICC line. It looked like a piece of thread. It was hard to comprehend how fluids and medication could run through that line into his veins. Anytime we moved the infant, we had to have a respiratory therapist there to hold on to the intubation tube. If it came out, our infant would not be able to breath and we would not be able to put it back in. This infant had a lot of IV medications. Each time we changed one out on the pump, we had to put on sterile gloves and keep our sterile field. I have not had much practice up to this point on that. Now, I feel like I can do a sterile procedure without worrying about breaking my sterile field. Our other high acuity patient was in an incubator. She was born at 27 weeks. They both were very great opportunities. I have had a great experience up to this point and am excited to see what will come in the next shifts.