

Midterm Clinical Reflection

What feelings did you experience in clinical? Why?

I felt nervous at first because the babies are very small and fragile. The NICU is a very serious environment and I wanted to make sure I didn't make any mistakes. The more shifts I have done, the more I felt comfortable.

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

I knew how important hand hygiene and infection control are in the NICU. I feel like I did a good job observing the babies, watching monitors, and keeping the environment calm and quiet. Anytime a baby was upset, I would go and check on them or pat them until they fell back asleep.

What areas do you need to develop/improve?

I feel like I could improve my confidence and my documentation skills, which I know will come with time. I also need to continue learning more about NICU equipment and common conditions. However I feel I have learned a lot already.

What did you learn today?

During my last four shifts, I have learned how to hang medication syringes on the pumps and what to do when they are empty. I have also learned how to set up a baby's feeding independently and had the opportunity to observe a G-tube surgery.

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

I will use what I learned by monitoring medications and feedings closely, and speaking up if I notice anything concerning. I will also continue studying NICU skills so I can be more confident and provide safe care to these tiny babies!