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139684

Midterm Clinical Reflection

My first five shifts have been amazing, and April has taught me so much already. I've had many opportunities to experience and learn new things, especially getting to observe my patient go for a PA (pulmonary artery) line insertion. This experience helped me gain a better understanding of what a PA line is used for and how it supports patient care.

A PA line is used to closely monitor a patient's hemodynamic status, particularly in cases like congestive heart failure. It allows providers to measure pressures within the heart and lungs, assess cardiac output, and guide fluid and medication management. We had this particular patient for three days, and the day we received him was the same day he had the PA line placed due to his CHF and other ongoing complications.

Throughout those three days, I pulled and monitored his numbers from the Cheetah machine daily. I really enjoyed pulling these numbers because it helped me better understand how cardiac output and fluid status are assessed and how those values directly influence clinical decisions. I also had the opportunity to perform dressing changes on his PA line, which further strengthened my skills and confidence.

It was also very interesting to watch the providers discuss and decide the patient's plan of care. Initially, there was consideration of sending him for a balloon angioplasty; however, they ultimately decided against it because the Bumex he was receiving had significantly improved his condition. At that point, an angioplasty would have caused more harm than benefit. Instead, the providers decided to proceed with an angiogram to further evaluate his coronary status and

determine the best next steps, including whether placing another stent or further opening an existing stent would be appropriate.

Overall, this experience was very hands-on and valuable, and it reinforced my interest in critical care, hemodynamic monitoring, and understanding how multidisciplinary decisions directly impact patient outcomes.