

Pediatric ED Reflection Questions

1. What types of patients (diagnoses) did you see in the PED?

The main type of patients I had were respiratory and falls.

2. The majority of the patients who came into the PED were from which age group? Was this what you expected?

Most of the patients were school aged kids (5-10). I expected them to be a little younger, maybe toddler age.

3. Was your overall experience different than what you expected? Please give examples.

It was different than what I expected. I thought it would be severe accidents, and the kids would need a lot more care. I didn't realize that people could also come in with asthma or covid.

4. How did growth and development come into play when caring for patients (both in triage and in treatment rooms)?

It came into play by using different techniques when calming down or comforting the patient.

With a two-month-old we had the parents comfort him by holding him and giving him a pacifier, but with the toddler patient we used toys and tv shows to distract them. We also had to use different things depending on how big the patient was. For example, we had to constantly change the BP cuff, and we also had to take their height and weight differently depending on if they could stand on their own.

5. What types of procedures did you observe or assist with?

Inserting IV'S and blood draws on babies two months and younger. This was different since their veins are so small, it took us a while to finish and find a good vein to get enough blood for the vials.

6. What community acquired diseases are trending currently?

RSV and Flu are trending currently.

7. What community mental health trends are being seen in the pediatric population?

Suicidal thoughts are a current mental health trend with the pediatric population.

8. How does the staff debrief after a traumatic event? Why is debriefing important?

They will have a formal debrief with a certified professional at a set day and time. It will involve everyone who participated in the event. It is important because it helps talk about the incident and lets people cope with it, but it also allows the opportunity to learn from it.

9. What is the process for triaging patients in the PED?

They are triaged by what's most severe. For example, there's stages 1-5. Stage 1 is not breathing/ CPR, stage 2 is emergency, stage 3 is urgent, stage 4 is semi, and stage 5 is non-emergency. So, depending on what the child came in with will decide what stage they are placed in and the order they are seen. That way no one has to wait when it is a severe situation.

10. What role does the Child Life Specialist play in the PED?

They will go in and help the child understand what is going on by basing on it their developmental level. They also use it for comfort, distractions, and explaining procedure to the child.