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My expectations for this Hospice clinical originally was to see the sickiest of the sick, essentially all very terminally ill patients with a DNR/DRNCC order. I expect to only give the patient pain medications and no other medications except to provide comfort to ease their soul out this world. I also expect this experience to be very hard, and somewhat depressing as no one would want to see someone else pass away since as a nurse you always want to do the absolute most to save someone's life. After my experience, I have to say I was extremely wrong about Hospice in general. I learned so much and the nurses, and aides I had to shadow were wonderful. I learned that Hospice takes in all patients regardless of code status, they can have full codes, DNRs, comfort care etc. and even all age groups. Family or patients may have a hard time accepting their terminal illness and for this reason staff may have to educate more on the risk and benefits of doing everything possible to save them verses making them comfortable. To elaborate more on this, a patients family member may be alarmed that they have stopped eating and drinking, but staff will educate family that when their illness has taken over parts of their body such as their stomach or hunger mechanisms and have essentially turned off like a light switch to preserve as much energy as possible. Family will request IV fluid replacements but once again staff will educate that in a healthy patient IV fluids will go where they are supposed to but in a terminal ill patient, they will go to spaces they are not and create a buildup in areas such as the lungs, legs, etc. that worsen the patients' pain and overall well-being. During this clinical experience, I was proven wrong again about my expectations with medications because we did have a few patients that received many daily home medications and not just pain medications to provide comfort relief.

This was one of the most rewarding clinical experiences so far, even though it was my first one to start off with psych. I say this because to see all the passion, and compassion the nurses had for each, and every patient brought so much joy to my heart. At times this clinical was a little tough to see a family member struggle with their loved ones diagnosis, but when the staff noticed they jumped right in and either talked them through a tough time, or simply just was present in the room to let them know they were there. I learned so much during this experience from medications to different styles of therapeutic communications, s/s of imminent death just so much. Something that stood out to be during my experience is my nurse I shadowed communicated with her patients still as if they were still verbally communicating to her, she would hold their hand, talk to them let them know everything was going to be okay and that she is here for them. I could tell my nurse had such a kind heart and that is why she makes such a great Hospice nurse. I did ask several questions during clinical and one of the questions was, "How do you cope, or what do you do to keep your mental health in good standing?" She replied that she tries to keep work at work, but also having a dark sense of humor helps too which all of us nurses have or will acquire over the years. This experience changed the way I think about Hospice, but it does not change who I am as an persona and LPN soon to be RN, and by this, I mean that I strive every day to treat my patients with the upmost respect, show compassion, empathy, and never pass judgement as you truly never know what someone is going through or have been through. If anything, this experience made me gain some hope back for nursing, I hate to say this, but I see it so often in the hospital some nurses being so disrespectful and rude to

patients for absolutely no reason it makes me happy seeing compassion still being alive and well in the field. You truly never know what someone is going through and that has always been my motto on why you should always treat people with the upmost respect regardless even if they may be upset because you being that one person who smiled back at them may be the one to change their entire day around. This was a very positive experience for me, and I gained so much more respect for Hospice staff. Overall, I had a very great, humbling Hospice experience that I will never forget, and I am extremely grateful I was given the opportunity to be a part of this.