

Trenton McIntyre

Hospice Clinical

6/19/24

Word count: 718

1. The expectations that I had for this clinical experience were to see and understand what someone feels or goes through at the end of their life. I wanted to see what someone's thoughts or feelings are closer to death, and I wanted to see what kind of treatments these patients receive before death. On the other hand, I wanted to see what it was like for the nurse caring for someone towards the end of their life. I also wanted to see how the nurses care for the families. These expectations were met for the most part. In summary, I had a very eye opening experience learning about everything through the dying process. I learned so much about respiration patterns, the attempt of resolving issues in past life during the sleep/dream state, modeling of extremities, creasings of the ears due to circulation and the body slowing down, and plenty more. I got to see and understand how the nurse should console with the families; we had many conversations with different families that all lasted at least a few minutes. I learned a lot in that short period.
2. Something that stood out to me during this clinical was the way one of the families were grieving. It was very different from anything I've ever experienced before, and it was honestly difficult to watch. They were very nice people and pleasant to console with, but they asked hundreds of questions it seemed like. They asked so many questions about the dying process, told us so many happy stories about their mom dating back to even when they were kids, and also cried so much. They seemed to grieve in many ways in the short time I was with them and that's just not anything I've ever seen before. What made it hard for me in that aspect I think is that I don't believe the family was ready to let that person go.
3. One of the main points about Hospice that changed my beliefs and also enhanced my knowledge at the same time was respite care. Before this experience, I only believed that people came here to die. Learning about respite care and how sometimes patients can just come here for a little bit and even give their family a break during that time made me appreciate Hospice a little more. There's so much more to Hospice than death.

4. I can say this clinical experience has definitely impacted my thinking a little bit. One thing that really impacted me was learning about the dying process and patients reliving scenarios that don't sit well with them before they die. They try to make peace of these before their death during the sleep/dream state but sometimes these life scenarios can actually lead to an uncomfortable death if they are unresolved. The main takeaway for me is to always love one another, be kind to everyone you interact with, and treat people how you want to be treated.
5. 5. I had so many feelings throughout this clinical experience and my understanding of this type of nursing has developed immensely. First, I was very eerie when I started the clinical, it was very quiet and I wasn't used to the energy that the space held. I've never been in an environment like that before. I have so many feelings of empathy for the families, I seen multiple families grieve and cry with their loved ones. I seen a few people try and get their loved ones to talk to them or listen to them. It was very heartbreaking to me at times. Watching the nurse console with these families was really a beautiful thing and I just gained so much appreciation for this kind of nursing. My understanding of this nursing grew so much learning about how the nurse should be with the patients and families, we got an admit so I got to see the whole admission process, and just how to work in that kind of an environment. It was a huge adjustment for me, but I'm very appreciative of this experience because I learned more than I expected too and honestly I really like this kind of nursing. It isn't a career choice I would choose but I'm very appreciative of having this kind of nursing.