

Firelands Regional Medical Center
School of Nursing
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1. My expectations for this experience for this experience were met, only because Stein Hospice is where my grandpa passed away and I also see a lot of people go through the hospice process at work. For example, it is a very calm, safe environment, where the nurses are giving a lot of meds just to make the patients as comfortable as they can be. One thing that I did not know about hospice is that they get an aide on the floor. I think that this is important so that all of the patients and their families receive the best care possible at all times. I also loved the amount of support that the Stein Hospice staff was able to give the families who needed it and the relationships that were able to be built between the nurses and the families. From this clinical experience, I was able to learn how to best take care of someone who is near the end of their life. I was also able to better my therapeutic communication with patients and families going through some of the toughest times of their lives.
2. One thing that stood out to me is the guy that I was asked to feed breakfast while I was there. This guy was there for a respite stay and had no visitors while he had been there. While I was feeding him breakfast, we ended up talking about a variety of things. I think that this made him really happy because he had been just sitting in his room by himself which he was not used to because he was from home with his family. I also ended up giving him a bed bath which gave up more time to talk and build a relationship. By the time I was done, I asked him if he needed anything else and he said, "Please don't leave me." This made me feel bad that he was just sitting in his room by himself, and it also made me want to sit in his room with him all day to keep him company.
3. I knew that hospice patients received a lot of pain meds, but I did not realize the extent of it. I did not know how many pain meds each patient could be on to help keep them comfortable and calm. One thing I thought was good about this was that the patients who were in a lot of pain and frequently wanted some kind of medication to help them almost always had something available. This was so that they did not have to lay there uncomfortably. I also thought that the nurses were veery good at staying on top of what each patient needed at the time.
4. This experience did not really change my way of thinking, but it did deepen my feelings towards how hard it is to watch the ones you love pass away. I do not know if I could be a hospice nurse, because I try to build a nurse-pt relationship with my patients, and then to watch them continuously decline and then pass away I think it would bother me too much. I am sure they have many good coping skills. I also made the decision that if one of my family members is near the end of life and wants to go on hospice, I will definitely

agree to that. I do not want them suffering, I would rather them go peacefully and pain-free.

5. Overall, I thought that this clinical was kind of sad, but at the same time it was a good way to make these patients comfortable for their last moments in the world. I would use this time to try and make a difference in their lives and do anything I could to make them and their families comfortable and able to find peace. Any time a patient even looked uncomfortable in any way; the nurse made sure to do anything that she could to fix it. You could tell that the nurses were very good at therapeutic communication. Even though it is hard, death is something that everyone goes through, and I think that Stein Hospice does a good job making this an okay part of life.