

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

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Clinical Rotation Site:

1. Briefly write about today's experience(s)

I really enjoyed my day in the emergency department yesterday. I was able to follow everyone around and just really see what a day in the emergency department is like. The nurses were very helpful and opening about wanting to help me learn which made it easier for me to be comfortable and want to learn from them. I had three major clients I help took care of. The first one was a female client who came in with chest pain because she had been partying the night before and had been drinking alcohol, took some unknown pills, and did cocaine. We did a full cardiac workup on her and believe that the chest pain was just due to anxiety. The second was also a female client who came in with symptoms of a stroke or aneurysm. We took her down for a CT scan where everything came back normal. Her lab work also came back normal and they were working on discharging her as I left. Lastly, the third was a male client who had been paralyzed and bed bound for nearly 25 years. He had come in for upper back/shoulder pain and ended up having a huge pus-filled cyst. They were going to first try a round of antibiotics, but he was going to need to see a general surgeon to get it drained.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I learned how to do a 12-lead EKG. I got to learn and practice on all three of my clients. I also got the chance to read the cardiac strips afterwards to see if there was anything abnormal with the clients' rhythms.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

The emergency department is a very fast paced environment. When a client comes in, they typically already have an IV started if in an ambulance or a phlebotomist is there waiting to start one on them when they get brought back. Therefore, I was unable to have the chance to start an IV, but I wish I would have spoken up and asked one of the nurses or phlebotomist if I could have waited with them and started an IV for them.

4. What is your major "take home" from today's clinical experience(s)?

I have come to really enjoy the emergency department setting and think I would really enjoy working as an ED nurse once I graduate. I am also glad I was able to help do a 12-lead EKG on my clients. It really helps getting to practice and do skills on a real client compared to the lab setting.

5. Is there anything else you would like to mention?

As I have stated above, I just really enjoy the emergency department setting. I like the adrenaline rush when you know an ambulance is going to be bringing a client in with such and such symptoms. I like knowing that in the emergency department you will never have two days that are the exact same.