

N431 Adult Health II  
Clinical Reflection Form #1

Name: Rancey Rouse  
Clinical Rotation Site: OSF Sacred Heart-PACU/surgery

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

I was lucky enough to experience observing many surgeries throughout the clinical day. I watched the role of the surgical tech, circulatory nurse, anesthesiologist, and surgeon in the operating room. Also, I observed the roles of the nurse before the patient enters the operating room and the nurse's role after the procedure, which are both critical roles. I watched an olecranon process fracture being repaired, a finger amputation, an endoscopy PEG tube insertion, and a laparoscopic cholecystectomy.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I learned the importance of maintaining a sterile field in an operating room and the documentation process that the circulatory nurse makes during the procedure. I also witnessed the surgical "timeout" that the nurse makes before the procedure begins. We learn this in class, but when you see and hear it being done, it helps understand how important it is to ensure the patient is correct, the procedure is right, and everyone is in the correct operating room. I learned what the gallbladder, liver, uterus, and other internal organs look like inside the body. I didn't know to remove the gallbladder laparoscopically; they insert gas in the stomach to have more room to work and be able to have a better visual; this was very interesting to me.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

I wouldn't have done anything differently. These nurses and other staff are very experienced in this field and have done an excellent job and done a great job explaining to me what was happening throughout the procedures and why. The only thing I wish I could do differently is to go back to last semester and prevent myself from getting strep throat so that I could experience this another time.

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

My major take-home is to keep a surgical nurse on the list of jobs I would consider. I always felt like the surgical nurse didn't do much, and I don't like to be bored and felt like it was a "boring" job compared to other fields. This nurse does a lot and is crucial to the process. It is also very interesting because they see different cases daily. Another take home would be how important it is to watch the vitals immediately after surgery. A patient usually stays in the post-operation recovery room with the nurse for at least 30 minutes if they have general anesthesia. The nurse had to be right by their side, documenting vitals every 5 minutes and assessing the patient's lungs, pulses, and so many other things in a short time. One patient needed suctioning, and then another patient

needed to be told to take deep breaths every few minutes because he was taking such shallow respirations. This job can be overwhelming at times like this, and I think learning about this role is totally different from seeing it done.

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

The staff on this unit were so kind to me and allowed me to ask questions and explain everything. I could tell that they genuinely wanted me to learn and that I was intrigued by the whole process. I was so grateful the physician showed me other organs during the cholecystectomy and surprised when he asked me questions that I would know the answers. I would love to experience this again and would love to float to this position and work there after being an experienced nurse. This is an extraordinary field and makes me consider going to school longer to be a nurse that can also help the surgical techs and scrub in for the procedures.