N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

Name: Natalie Zizumbo   Date: 09/16/2024

Clinical Rotation Site: CCU

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

I was on the CCU for today's clinical rotation. It was my first time in a critical care unit/ICU, and it was very interesting to experience. Each of the nurses had two patients unless one of the patients became a step-down, which in turn may get them assigned a new admit, which happened with the nurse I was with today. We had three patients, and it was interesting to see the differences in care between a patient who was conscious and a patient who was intubated and under sedation. It was a great experience, and the nurses in that unit were very knowledgeable and on top of everything.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I learned about EVD, an external ventricular drain used to monitor a patient's intracranial pressure. The ICU nurse needed to monitor the drains carefully and do hourly ICP assessments, documenting the ICP that appeared on the monitor. A laser connected to the drainage system was used to level the system to the patient's tragus. The nurse had to consistently check that the system was in the correct position and adjust accordingly.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

One thing I would have done differently is maybe ask the nurse if I could have hung some of the medications that were being used, such as propofol, and switched the tubing since it needed to be changed.

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

My major takeaway from this clinical experience is that the ICU/CCU can be a very intimidating and intense floor. Many tasks need to be done, and there are many more lines with medications, drainage systems, and peripheral lines that need to be managed.

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

Although I'm not sure that the CCU/ICU is a good fit for me in the future, it is still exciting, and there are so many things to learn on this floor about patient critical care.