

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

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Clinical Rotation Site: PACU

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

I first came in and the nightshift nurse gave me the rundown of how their unit operates. This nurse also showed me the surgery schedule so I could get an idea of what kind of operations they have and when they do them. The dayshift nurses arrived at separate times, a few came in at 7am, a few at 9am, and a few more at 10am. They typically work in a 1:1 nurse to patient ratio. Each time a patient was brought in by surgery I stood by and listened to report. I observed what the nurses need to do for the patient such as vitals, charting, and some assessments.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I have not had PACU experience before this clinical, I mostly learned the role of the PACU nurse. I also learned that this particular facility had phase 1 and phase 2 for post-op. Phase 1 is to ensure the patient wakes up and comes off anesthesia okay. Phase 2 is typically for the patients that will be discharged to home. The nurses in phase 2 assist the patient with eating/drinking, getting up, and any other task they need to complete before discharge.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

The next time I do this clinical rotation I would like to look at the charting the nurses do. I did not see much other than the vitals they charted. The nurses stated they had a few other things they needed to chart on and I would like to get an idea of what that is.

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

My major take home lesson from this clinical experience is the importance of assessing vitals, especially blood pressure or MAP, post operative. One patient did not respond to the anesthesia great and had a hard time keeping their blood pressure up.

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

The nurses on this unit were great and worked well as a team. They did not start to get patients until around 9:30. I think it is good to have this experience so we can understand the different roles nurses have.