

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

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Clinical Rotation Site: PACU

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

I was in the PACU for this clinical rotation. It was a good experience to see a different side of nursing. I used to work in the operating room, so I was familiar with the nurse's role in the operating room. It was interesting to see the nursing when the patients came out of surgery. It was a different pace than on a medical-surgical floor. The nurses cared for patients coming out from various surgeries, and the turnover could be quick depending on how fast the floor could get a room for them if they were being admitted.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I learned that the nurses did the same assessment for every patient. The assessments included airway, respiratory, cardiac, peripheral vascular, and LOC. Depending on the patient's surgery, they would then add specific assessments, such as neuro or musculoskeletal. I also learned that the fluids for children are never left to run out due to the IV possibly failing.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

One thing I would do differently is ask to follow one of the patients into the second phase of PACU. In phase two, the patients are discharged on the same day. It would have been nice to see what the nurses do in this phase and the teaching provided to the patients.

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

My major takeaway from the clinical experience was the importance of airway and oxygenation for patients returning from surgery. Some patients who returned from surgery needed to be reminded to take deep breaths because their oxygen saturation would drop. It is also important to ensure they take deep breaths to reduce the risk of atelectasis.

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

The PACU was a good experience and different from a medical-surgical unit. At times, it was a little slower than I was used to, but overall, I enjoyed it. Since I used to work in surgery, I am interested in nursing related to surgery. It was interesting to see the other side of the surgical experience.