

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

Name: Sarah Minacci

Date: 10/7/24

Clinical Rotation Site: PACU

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

Today I got to follow several different nurses on the floor in PACU. We saw a variety of different post-operative patients from wound debridement to orthopedic repairs, and even a craniotomy. I also got to follow along with a patient to get a CT scan and then be transported up to the CCU. The nurses at the PACU performed very focused respiratory and neurological assessments on their patients and they were very helpful in explaining what they are looking for in their assessments. They also explained a lot about how they manage patients' pain and why that is so important for them immediately post-op.

2. What is one thing you learned?

One thing I learned today was about the artificial airways that providers can use post-op to help keep the patient's airway open while they are still heavily sedated. The nurses explained to me that while the patient has the artificial airway in place the nurse cannot leave their bedside just in case they would suddenly wake up and begin choking on it. The nurses said that they carefully watch the patient's breathing patterns and when they begin to stir and cough slightly then you know it is time to take the artificial airway out for them.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

One thing that I would do differently is ask to listen to patient's lung sounds. The nurses did not do this as part of their focused assessments, but it would have been a good opportunity to continue practicing listening to different people's lungs, especially while it is quiet and they are sedated.

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

My major "take home" from today's clinical experience is how much clinical judgment that PACU nurses use for each patient. The nurses were explaining to me that oftentimes PACU does not hire new grad nurses because while it may seem like an "easy job", you need a great deal of clinical experience to pick up on little cues from patients and have a thorough understanding of

how the body compensates with its vital signs. It was really cool to watch them put that nursing judgment into practice.

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

The nurse Ola that I was with the majority of the time was wonderful and provided great education.