

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

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Clinical Rotation Site: Critical Care Unit (CCU)

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

Today, I was with Stacy at the CCU. She had two medical patients who didn't require immediate care and then received a new admit that would require most of her attention for the rest of the afternoon. The patient came in intubated with a Foley catheter and was not alert or oriented. Stacy explained to me her concern about brain death with this new patient. So, I got to see them do many tests to assess his responses, such as tests regarding his eyes and pupils, reflexes, and painful stimuli response. The patient did not respond to any of these tests. I also got to watch the insertion of a central line for this patient. We took this patient down to get a CT and chest x-ray. Once we got back to the floor, they performed an EEG and had plans to get an MRI as well. I gave a few medications and injections to some of her other patients as well.

2. What is one thing you learned?

Stacy explained to me in depth how this patient's high blood pressure could affect his whole body, and she related it to his abnormal labs. She explained the purpose of all the tests and exams they were doing to assess his response, and she explained some of the different devices they used to do this. She also explained to me the reasons that could have caused this possible brain death in the patient.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

I don't think there's anything I would do differently. I felt very confident on this floor and with this nurse. I asked more questions about this patient's situation. I would say the only thing I would've done differently would have been to investigate this patient's chart to get more of a backstory, but Stacy and I stayed busy with this patient, so there wasn't really a good time to sit down and look at the chart because most of the time we were giving care to him.

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

My major take home from today's experience is just that the CCU was different than I expected. I was a little nervous to go to the CCU today, but it ended up being very interesting to me and I really enjoyed being on this floor.

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

No, my nurse, Stacy, was excellent. She was very welcoming and taught me a lot of things and helped me feel more confident in myself. The only thing I would like to mention is that I wish I could have more CCU rotations than just two because of how educational it was for me. I think this rotation would be great to go to more than once or twice. It helped me to critically think about caring for the patient and what the biggest priorities were. I really enjoyed this rotation and would love to go back to a critical care unit more.