

N431 Adult Health II

Clinical Reflection Form

Name: Tracy Donaldson

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Clinical Rotation Site: Carle Foundation Hospital PACU Dept.– Urbana, Illinois

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

The clinical experience I gained today in the PACU Department was invaluable. In addition to observing how the nurses interact with patients who are just waking from anesthesia, I was able to assess the patient's degree of pain, orient them, and reassure them. It was intriguing to learn that each person responds differently to waking up following surgery and how quickly nurses must react to ensure patient safety. My first patient had a laminectomy, and the second had hernia surgery. I also floated around the area to see what else was going on.

2. What is one thing you learned?

I gained knowledge about how the PACU administers different dosages of painkillers. The first line of treatment is a small dose of fentanyl administered every three minutes; if that doesn't work, the patient is switched to Dilaudid. Depending on whether the patient can tolerate the pain, it may next proceed to other medications such as Morphine.

3. What is one thing you would do differently?

Moving on to a more complicated patient after my first patient is one thing I would have done differently. There was a woman there who had a double mastectomy, which would have been more interesting to stay with her, but I was with a 19-year-old who had hernia surgery.

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

My primary takeaway from today's experience is the importance of being highly attentive to your patients in the PACU Department. Anything can go bad quickly, and you must react fast.

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

I had a pleasant experience with the nurse in the PACU Department.