

Clinical Reflections: #2

1. How does this clinical site relate to Population/Global Health?

The Carle Convenient Care Clinic is very closely related to population/global health. This clinic sees people of all ages from the community from infants to the elderly and treats a huge variety of health issues. They can provide care for anything from respiratory infections to lacerations, fractures, wounds, skin problems, ENT concerns, STD testing and treatment, giving vaccinations and more. This site is a convenient care “plus” meaning that they are pretty much a “step-down” ER. They can provide x-rays, CTs, give IV fluids, put on casts and more. Because they care for people of all ages and for a huge variety of health concerns, this clinic is very in-tune to what sorts of health problems are currently occurring in Danville. For instance, influenza A is a major outbreak occurring in the community right now along with RSV, COVID, and strep throat. There are also a great deal of STDs and exacerbation of chronic conditions like COPD and DM occurring within the specific population that this clinic cares for. Many of the individuals that come to this clinic do not have a primary care doctor and therefore the clinic itself is really their sole provider and this is really important in helping to maintain the health of this specific population. Epidemiology is a central component of population health nursing and this clinical site would have incredibly valuable insight on what sort of health conditions and disparities are primarily affecting the Danville community.

2. How were you an engaged nursing professional during this clinical experience?

I was an engaged nursing professional at this clinical site by showing up early and in my proper uniform. I introduced myself to the whole staff including the CMAs and physicians and promptly provided my skills sheet for reference for the staff. I also remained engaged by asking a lot of questions about how the clinic runs on a day-to-day basis, how they divide and delegate tasks, and what the most common conditions they treat are. I also offered to help out wherever I could in the clinic.

3. How did you or could you contribute to the service of the community through this clinical site?

During my time at this clinical site, I contributed to the service of the community by assisting with many swabs for RSV, COVID, strep, and the flu for a variety of different age groups. We also had a patient who was starting to lose consciousness so I assisted in transferring them to bed, obtaining a blood sugar, and performing a stat EKG with vitals. I was able to follow along with several nurses and was an activate participants in listening to patient concerns and contributing to conversations between the nurse and physician when discussing plans of care.

4. Name 3 ways this clinical site impacts community health?

One way that this clinical site impacts community health is that it functions as a “step down” ER. This is a really important community resource as it creates more than one place in the community for people with real, but not emergent, concerns to be seen. This, in turn, helps to alleviate strain off of ERs and distribute care services more effectively which means shorter

wait times to be seen and less stress on healthcare providers. Additionally, this clinical site impacts community health as it is centrally located in the community allows for quicker access to basic medical care than trying to make an appointment with a primary care physician. This can encourage preventative healthcare by making it easier for individuals to address minor issues before they become more serious. This is very important, particularly for individuals who do not have a primary care provider or may face barriers to obtaining regular healthcare access. Lastly, as mentioned previously, this clinical site allows healthcare providers to gain very good insight on the current health problems facing the community such as the flu, STDs, and exacerbations of chronic illnesses. With this data they would be able to provide important information on community change initiatives that would be most beneficial to the community. For example, there is a great number of influenza A cases currently, so they could invest more resources next year in community outreach for flu clinics so that more people get vaccinated. They also are seeing a large number of STDs in high school age people and so they could reach out to local high schools with additional educational materials to provide during sex-education lectures.

5. Name 1 way this clinical site could better serve the community and why?

One way that I noticed that this clinical site could better serve the community is to spend more time on patient education and provide more educational materials to patients at discharge. As we have learned in class,

one of the central components of population health is the use of primary prevention strategies to increase health in the community and decrease the amount of preventable diseases and health conditions (Assessment Technologies Institute, 2023). One of the primary ways that this is done is through patient education and immunizations. I noticed at this clinical site that there was not much time spent by the nurses or doctors discussing education points with the patients. I also noticed that the nurses and doctors didn't seem to be asking patients who came in with flu like symptoms if they had received their flu shot this year and the importance of getting the seasonal vaccine. There were also very little educational materials provided to patients at discharge aside from the typical patient visit summary paper. I think it would be beneficial for this clinical site to provide informational packets about early signs and symptoms of common illnesses such as the flu and strep and the timeline in which they can actually be treated. Additionally, there were many pediatric patients seen and because oftentimes kids can very quickly become unstable I think providing information packets about signs and symptoms parents should be aware of such as nasal flaring and retractions.

6. What health risks are experienced by the population served by this clinical site?

The major health risks that I noticed being experienced by the population served at this clinical site are communicable diseases. As previously mentioned the flu, COVID, RSV, and STDs are major health issues

being faced by the community. I also noticed that several patients stated that they did not have a thermometer at home to monitor so they were unable to tell if either themselves or their child's condition was worsening or improving. So clearly access to important health supplies such as a thermometer is a health risk facing the community as well. Lastly, lack of health literacy seemed to be a health risk faced by the community.

Individuals appeared not to be aware of some common signs and symptoms associated with particular disease processes, the time frame in which viral illnesses can be given an antiviral treatment, or how long they would be contagious with a certain disease. Proper patient education is so important in improving overall health and cannot be stressed enough.

Reference

Assessment Technologies Institute. (2023). *RN community health nursing* (9th ed.). Assessment Technologies Institute.

CRITERION	POOR	FAIR	GOOD
<p>-Concise and Complete</p> <p>Total Weight- 0.5 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content is incomplete. - Major points are not clear and /or persuasive <p>Weight-0 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content is not comprehensive and /or persuasive. - Major points are addressed, but not well supported. - Research is inadequate or does not address course concepts. <p>Weight- 0.5 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Content is comprehensive, accurate, and persuasive. - Major points are stated clearly and are well supported. - Content and purpose of the writing are clear. <p>Weight- 1 point</p>
<p>Critique of experience-Evaluation and Rationale for your comments</p> <p>Total Weight- 1.0 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization and structure detract from the message of the writer. - Paragraphs are disjointed and lack transition of thoughts. -Lack of evaluation and rationale for comments <p>Weight- 0.5 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure of the paragraphs are not easy to follow. - Paragraph transitions need improvement. -Lack of adequate evaluation and rationale for comments <p>Weight- 1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Structure of the paragraphs are clear and easy to follow. -Good evaluation and rationale for comments <p>Weight- 2 points</p>
<p>Thoughtful Reflection-How will this affect your practice or will it?</p> <p>Total Points- 1.0 points</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper lacks many elements of correct formatting. - Paragraphs are inadequate or excessive in length. -Unspecific as to how this experience will impact your nursing practice or not. <p>Weight- 0.5 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper follows most guidelines. - Paper is over/ under word length. -Lacks some specifics as to how this experience will impact your nursing practice or not. <p>Weight-1 point</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Paper follows designated guidelines. - Paper is the appropriate length as described for the assignment. -States clearly as to how this experience will impact nursing practice or not and why. <p>Weight-2 points</p>
<p>APA Format Correct</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Lack of APA format. -Paper contains 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Inappropriate APA format. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Correct APA format.

Total Points _____

*NOTE: Must achieve 7.7 points to pass. This is a clinical assignment, so it must be passed in order to pass clinical.