

N443 Leadership and Management
Behavioral Questions for the Professional Portfolio

Section 1:

1. Tell me about a mistake you made in the clinical setting and how you managed it.

As a nursing student, I once placed an IV and thought it was in the vein, but when I flushed it, the site started to swell, showing it had infiltrated. I immediately stopped, removed the IV, elevated the arm, and told my instructor. Together my instructor and I explained what had happened to the patient and apologized. My instructor reassured me that this skill takes practice to master and let me re-attempt to place the IV. I was successful the second time, and I will always be grateful to that instructor for allowing me to learn from my mistake.

Section 2:

1. Tell me about a time when you had to solve a problem creatively.

During a trauma case that I participated in as a surgical technologist, the surgeon needed an instrument that wasn't on the sterile field. The patient was unstable, so time was essential. I quickly told the circulator what we needed, helped find a backup set, and kept the field sterile while it was opened. I stayed calm and organized so the surgeon could keep working without delay. By acting fast and communicating clearly, we kept the case moving and protected the patient's safety.

Section 3:

1. You and your preceptor are going to insert an indwelling urinary catheter on a client with urinary retention. You observe your preceptor breaking sterile technique when they are preparing to insert the catheter. What do you do?

As a surgical tech in nursing school, I take sterile technique very seriously. If I saw my preceptor break sterile technique while inserting a catheter, I would politely speak up and say something like, "I think the field may not be sterile anymore." I would say it in a respectful way, focusing on patient safety. If needed, I would suggest starting over with new sterile supplies. Protecting the patient from infection is always the priority.