

Lakeview College of Nursing

3rd Semester Midterm Clinical Reflection Form

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Date: 3/7/26

Course/Clinical Instructor: Professor Jami Dowell

Clinical Site: OSF – Danville Campus

Instructions: Please respond thoughtfully to each question below. Your responses will help you reflect on your progress, identify strengths and growth areas, and guide your learning for the remainder of the semester.

1. Describe a clinical situation this semester that had a significant impact on your learning. What made it meaningful to you?

I have never put a nasogastric tube in a patient before. I have only practiced in the skills lab. The first week I was on the DEU for clinical, I was following Emily, the charge nurse that day. We had a patient who was not eating and was very lethargic. The provider wanted us to put in a nasogastric tube so at least we could administer medications for the patient since they were not swallowing anything. Plus, the patient was aspirating when we would try to give them water or food or even medication. The house supervisor, Nate, was willing to help, considering the patient was not very happy with us when we first tried to insert one. I followed Emily, Jasmine (another nurse on the unit), and Nate into the patient's room. Nate was the one who inserted the nasogastric tube. He talked me through everything he was doing and was asking me questions. I felt really dumb in the moment because I was blanking on all of the answers. Finally, we got the nasogastric tube inserted and could hear air in the stomach. I really like how Nate explained everything that he was doing, and I felt more comfortable afterwards if I had to insert a nasogastric tube on a patient. I learned a lot that day from Nate and Emily.

2. What nursing skills have you become more confident in since the beginning of the semester? Provide specific examples.

This semester, I feel more confident in doing medication passes and starting IV medication. Last semester I was more timid on doing things. Following Emily, I have become more confident in passing medications and starting IV fluids. Most of the time I don't even have to ask Emily questions or how to set up the pumps. Another nursing skill I have become more confident in is inserting IV's. Last semester, I did not insert that many IVs. The first week I was in the ER. I followed Hunter. She was amazing. She had me start every IV. The first one, I was a little nervous, but after I got it on my first try, I just went with my gut. I ended up getting all of my IVs in on the first try.

3. Identify one area where you feel you still need improvement. What steps are you taking to grow in this area?

I believe I need to get more confident in what I am doing. I have seen an improvement, but I still notice myself standing behind Emily when she is talking with patients. The past week, I stood right next to her and even helped answer patients' questions about their stay and what we do as nurses to help them. I plan to keep moving forward and not stand back.

4. How have you applied classroom knowledge to patient care in the clinical setting? Give an example.

Yes, I have applied classroom knowledge. I recently had a patient who was admitted for an acute kidney injury. The patient was asking questions about the diagnosis. From the knowledge I gained in class, I was able to describe to the patient what was happening and what they should expect with a kidney injury. Emily helped out and we did make the patient more comfortable.

5. Discuss how you've incorporated therapeutic communication with patients, families, or the healthcare team. What was the outcome?

I use therapeutic communication by standing at my patient's eye level when speaking with them. I use active listening when they are talking and expressing their feelings. By doing these things, I have noticed my patients do feel more comfortable with me and are more open to talking about what they are feeling about the hospital stay and how they are feeling with what we have to do to help them feel better.

6. Describe how you have demonstrated professionalism and accountability in the clinical environment.

I show up to clinical on time. I make sure I am prepared before clinical by getting all of my paperwork ready the night before. I ensure I follow HIPAA by not using patient identifiers when speaking with the nurse outside a patient's room.

7. Have you had the opportunity to collaborate with interdisciplinary team members? Describe the experience and what you learned.

I have spoken with a few respiratory therapists about breathing treatments for patients experiencing shortness of breath. I have also talked to one of the doctors for my patients to help them understand their diagnosis better

8. Reflect on how you've prioritized and managed your time during clinical shifts. What strategies have been effective or need improvement?

When we first get to the floor, I follow my nurse when receiving the report and write down the information that is needed. The nurse and I then sit down to determine which medications need to be given first. We assess the patient when we enter the room to administer medications. Before looking up the medications and patients, we introduce ourselves and ask if they need anything before we start med pass. After the med pass is done, I look up information on my patient for whom I am creating a care plan, but I still make sure to answer call lights and help the nurse with any needs she has. I do think I need to be more effective in communicating with the nurse. I have noticed there have been a few times where I am sitting at the computer looking up information and the nurse goes to get medications to pass. I should let the nurse know that I can pass all the medications with her, and I can find a better time to sit down to look up medications.

9. How have you handled feedback from your clinical instructor or staff nurses? Provide an example of how you applied it.

One of the nurses gave me feedback when I had to do an EKG on a patient, and I was standing waiting for other staff members to finish their stuff first. The nurse told me I can go ahead and enter all the information and get the stickers ready, so when the other person is done, I can get them hooked up, and it won't take as long. I took that into consideration, and I even do this now at my job. The next time I had to do an EKG on a patient in the ER, another staff member was already in there, getting them hooked up to the monitor for vitals. I went ahead and was asking the patient for their name and date of birth and was getting the wires and stickers ready, so when the staff member was done all I had to do was hook them up and then it was done. The patient did not have to wait a long time and was able to get comfortable quickly.

10. What are your clinical learning goals for the remainder of the semester? How do you plan to achieve them?

I hope to learn more as a student by taking care of patients and by prioritizing time for assessments, passing medications, and ensuring time to chart and look up information. I have learned a lot from following nurses on how they manage their time. Everyone is different, but most of them will chart right after leaving the patient's room to keep time and make sure they get everything charted.

Student Signature: Shiann Manint

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Instructor Comments (Optional):