

This clinical was the first rotation of the semester, and we were assigned to the oncology floor. We did not see oncology patients per se, but we saw more med-surg patients. Since we are experiencing a pandemic, we were also not allowed to treat or assess COVID patients whether they were being ruled out or tested (+). I was assigned a male patient who was admitted with persistent vomiting, transaminitis, and acute alcohol withdrawal, and this patient was getting discharged the same day of my care. There was not much else to do for the patient as he was ready to go home.

My greatest challenge this week is getting back into the motion of things, which include detailed assessments, what other questions to ask to get the full picture, critical thinking in the hospital / in the care of the patient, and time management. It was somewhat difficult to know what to do because I had a patient who was feeling better and waiting to be discharged. These are areas that I need improvement in for future clinicals.

It was the first day of clinical, so it was mostly orientation and helping the staff with their needs as well as other patients who were not COVID (+). Personally, I can say that I am more confident with reaching out for help as well as giving help to those who ask for it. I'm always willing to lend a hand. Professionally, I can say that since I work in an inpatient setting at a hospital as a technician, talking to nurses and other medical staff is easier and more comfortable as well as patients. I am also more confident in certain skills and areas of critical thinking now than a year ago when it comes to patient care. Spiritually, it was a little tough because this is our first session back in the hospital for clinical (and, during a pandemic!). When the pandemic started, it was petrifying to see how this virus was hurting people, and it shut down practically the entire world. Working throughout the pandemic from beginning to currently, I am not as scared as I was 5-6 months ago, but it is still something to be very cautious about. I pray every day and every time I enter into any hospital for everyone who are sick (COVID or not), who are taking care of the sick, who are going to work / school / etc., and who are staying home.

My greatest accomplishment for this week is that my day was very well rounded for the first day. Typically, the patient assignments we have are heavy with information

that we can learn from and apply critical thinking in different ways as well as any other needs from the staff or the patient. This week, outside of my patient's needs and assessments, I was able to help fellow classmates and staff with a bed bath, bed making, texas cath placement, a partial skin assessment with another classmate, and administering medication with a nurse. With that being said, my basic technical skills and interpersonal communication skills are intact and like second nature. Because of my job as a technician, it makes it easier to talk to staff as well as different types of patients and how to approach them in given situations.

This week, I would like to focus on Psalm 139:24, which says, "See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting." I do this every time I go into work or school or anywhere really. I say this type of prayer, and I rebuke any negativity that is waiting for me or in me so that I can walk with and like Jesus. In the hospital setting, patients do not like staying in the hospital for any number of days. My assigned patient kept saying that he wanted to go home. He did not seem bothered by me, but as a courtesy, I do not like bothering patients more than I have to because some patients rest during the day when they cannot sleep at night. Sometimes, they get cranky or passive-aggressive with me, but I care for the really big sweethearts as well. I silently pray over them as well.