

The greatest challenge I experienced this week at clinical was time management. This week the nurse I was assigned to was extremely busy and it was hard for me to complete all of the required tasks in 4 hours. It goes by so fast! One bioethical concern I saw this week was how condescending health care professionals can be towards a patient sometimes. My patient was concerned because his 15 year old senior dog was left home alone for over 24 hours and he was worried for him. He requested internet access so that he could contact someone on Facebook to tend to his dog. The responses that I got were to my surprise not very nice. I heard people make fun of him for thinking this was an emergency or people asking why he couldn't remember a phone number from the top of his head. I felt that these responses were not helping the patient directly and that whether or not he feels this is an emergency or could not contact a memorized number at the time, is really not for us to judge upon. Our job was to get him the help he needed in coming from a comforting and safe zone both in front of his face and behind his back. This patient is already in a vulnerable state admitted at a hospital and the last thing he needed is someone not looking at something that was important to him in a condescending way.

My greatest accomplishment this week was spending time with the patient and convincing him to wait for his Infectious Disease and surgical consult. The patient was ready to leave as he was worried about his dog. His consultation would come within the hour and I calmed him down by telling him that I understood his concern, that I have a senior dog as well and completely know the feeling of a dog being your family. He was happy to hear everything I had to say, in addition to listening to him and he thanked me for not making him feel like he was 'crazy.' The technical skills I performed this week was being able to take all of the patient's vital signs that my nurse was assigned to and notifying him of any signs that were not within range. One of the things that I want to improve on is being able to see the bigger picture when it comes to taking care of patients during the time that I am there. I would like to be able to create a plan that is the most relevant and important to the patient's needs. My interpersonal skills with the patients and their families was something I am proud of. I was able to make them all feel comfortable with me and if they had any questions that were out of my scope I would make sure to find them an answer.

My scripture for this week was from Psalm 16:8 "I know the Lord is always with me, I will not be shaken, for he is right beside me." This was a reminder to be throughout my day that God is always on my side, he will guide me and lead me to perform the work that he's put me on this Earth to accomplish. In addition to a reminder that, when things take an unexpected turn, it's okay, because it is all part of his plan.