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This week, I was able to observe and learn many things in clinical. The goal was to administer medication for my patient. I was able to observe my nurse administer an IV push of hydromorphone injectable for pain and IV push of glycopyrrolate injectable to decrease secretions. The patient has an NG tube and was receiving feeding until it was discontinued in the afternoon. I assessed my patient's skin, which included an assessment of pressure injuries. The patient had bilateral stage 2 injuries on heels and unstageable injury on her sacrum. The nurse cleaned the wound and placed Allevyn to cover and protect the wound. According to the nurse, the patient is "actively dying", and the patient's family members arrived from out of state to say their final goodbyes. We provided comfort and listened to the patient's son and daughter as they talked about their mother's strength and love for her family. During my assessment, I observed the patient's breathing pattern and auscultated breath sounds. I noticed the Cheyne-Stokes respiration. The patient was responsive only to painful stimuli. For example, when we turned her to her side to assess her sacrum she groaned in pain. When the son tried to speak to the patient and asked if she knew him and to squeeze his hand if she heard his voice, the patient did not respond. The doctors came to the patient's room to speak with the family members about the patient's status and to discuss palliative care. The goal for the patient now is to provide comfort care.

After my time with my assigned patient, my nurse allowed me to shadow her while she took care of her other patients. I assisted her when I can and what was appropriate for me to do as a student nurse. I realized the heavy responsibilities of nurses. She had many patients requiring immediate attention and asking for specific requests, which is very stressful for one person to take. A bioethical concern would be if a busy and stressed nurse makes a mistake with medication administration and fails to report the error. The nurse may have a hard time deciding whether or not to report the incident. I realize the importance of having good time management and learning to prioritize patients who need the most immediate care. I hope to learn to have good time management.

Galatians 5:22 - "But the fruit of the spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance; against such, there is not law". I believe these are important characteristics to have as nurses.