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Clinical Journal #2

On clinical day #2, I was assigned to assess a newborn. The newborn I was assigned to was born the night before at 7:59pm. Baby boy was born via c-section at 38 weeks gestation, weighing 10lbs 6oz. He was born large for his gestation age which was due to his mother developing gestational diabetes and hypertension. When the baby was born, he stopped receiving glucose supply from his mother and he developed hypoglycemia. The baby was lethargic, grunting, flaring during respirations, and his glucose levels were between 35-42 mg/dL. He also had a poor sucking strength resulting in poor enteral feedings. At 8:30am, his glucose levels were reading 42mg/dL and the nursery nurse administered dextrose gel to the buccal membranes. I asked if I could try to feed the baby since he hadn't eaten much after his birth. It took a while for him to start taking the formula without just spitting it back out. However, I began with him sucking for finger and when I felt he was doing that well, I put the tip of the syringe at the corner of his mouth to insert some formula. I was able to feed him 30 mL in 15 minutes. I sat him up to burp and he did so with ease. He was awake with his eyes open and also had a good bowel movement. I finished assessing him before he ate but I did not get a chance to change his diaper before NICU came to get him for further monitoring.

I also got the chance to hold and provide a comforting touch to another baby in the nursery. A baby girl in the nursery needed to be loved on and held. It really touched my heart to

be able to sing and talk to her to calm her since she was crying. My greatest accomplishment this week was completing a newborn assessment and feeding a baby that desperately needed it. My greatest challenge was remembering how to make a hospital bed. But, with the refresher from Dr Thomas, I should not ever forget. I believe realizing the flow of the assessment and implementing it helped me to grow professionally. As time passes, it will become easier. I utilized my interpersonal communication skills with the clients and staff this week. At the beginning of my shift, I introduced myself to the mother of the baby I was assigned to let her know what I would be doing for her baby. I congratulated her, thanked her for letting me be a part of her care team, and asked if there was anything at the moment. She wanted water with no ice and said she was fine with everything else. When speaking with the staff, I have become more comfortable offering my assistance and asking relevant questions for clarification. The verse that guided me through this week's clinical was, "Children are a gift from God; they are a reward from Him" (Psalm 127:3). I am not a mother yet. But when I am in the presence of any of the Heavenly Father's children, I assume the responsibility to love them, cherish them, keep them safe, and show them God's love. Every child deserves that kind of love and care. So, I always make sure that any child in my care feels loved and safe.