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Clinical day 1, January 20, 2023, began with the opportunity for a couple of my classmates to witness a cesarean delivery. As that was proceeding, we were introduced to the staff, took a tour of the unit, and became familiar with our surroundings. I really enjoyed going into the NICU. There were three babies in the NICU that I had the pleasure of assisting in their care. Baby 1 was full term and was in the NICU receiving phototherapy for hyperbilirubinemia. Baby 2, born at 37 weeks gestation, was transitioning from minor symptoms of respiratory distress due to fluid in the lungs. Baby 3 was born at 35 weeks gestation and was overall a healthy baby with no complications, also known as a grower/feeder. However, on day 6 of being in the NICU, Baby 3 became tachypneic, tachycardic, and developed a slight fever. When I arrived, the NICU nurses needed to collect blood for a sepsis workup. I felt extremely honored to be there in any capacity to help. When that was finished, I calmed the baby down by speaking softly and providing therapeutic touch. I was able to swaddle and change baby's diaper as well. The nurse realized it was time for his prophylactic antibiotics. The baby received ampicillin at 50mg/kg/dose. The baby weighed 2590 grams. It was reconstituted with normal saline, so the vial contained 100mg/mL. The baby received 1.3mL of ampicillin in that dose.

Reflecting on my personal growth, I realize how different it is to care for a baby in a clinical setting rather than just caring for a family member. Spiritually, I understand that healing

does not come from me but by the power and authority of Christ working through me to serve His people. My professional growth this week came from gaining more hands-on experience assessing newborns. My greatest accomplishment this week was getting the correct dosage for medication administration when asked by the NICU nurse. My greatest challenge was remembering that I can't pick up babies and walk with them. It is a safety issue, and I would not want an accident to happen. I have always felt at ease when communicating with people. Whether they are my classmates, faculty, staff, or clients, I approach everyone with respect and kindness. When I have questions, I do not hesitate to ask for further information or clarification. Also, I love to ask if there's anything else I can assist with. I believe in a few weeks; I will improve in my technical skills of newborn assessments and postpartum assessments. I know there still so much more for me to learn, but I am grateful to be able to start somewhere. Last week in church, my pastor was preaching on our series 'The Climb.' Zechariah 4:10 (NLT) says, "Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin." My pastor went on to say, "We must encourage one another to ask the question: If I continue on this path, where does it end? Because ignoring the question does not negate the destination." Time will pass regardless. We make the choice to remain stagnant or make small steps towards growth. At the beginning of the semester, we were told that maternity is like stepping into a whole new world. I appreciate the beginning of every new season in life. It gives me another opportunity to grow. So, I enjoy every step of the way and look back on how I used the time that God gave me. God never said life would be easy. But He did say He would be with us, always.