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Reflective Journal #2

The second clinical day, we were assigned our patients and I made my way to the nurse to receive the patient's report. The nurse was with another patient so I shadowed her and assisted her with the other patients before we got to the patient I was assigned. I met the patient, completed the assessment, assisted him with his breakfast and lunch, changing his clothes, assisting with his ambulation to his wheelchair and to the bathroom, and helped with his hygiene.

There were no challenges I faced during the clinical day. The nurse was very helpful and answered my questions and the patient was very responsive and friendly as well. The patient enjoyed interacting with another male and we talked about video games, dating, and other topics that he was interested in.

There were many areas of reflection for this week in the areas of personal and spiritual growth. In my conversation with the patient, I struggled and was challenged by his situation. He told me that his family was back in his home country and that he was here in the states by himself. He stated that he missed his family and his brother. I didn't ask too many questions because I didn't want to pry into his personal life. Without knowing those details, I assumed a lot about his situation. To me, it seemed like his parents deserted him here in the states because they couldn't take care of him back home. I'm sure other factors played a role in him being here such as his disability but I couldn't stop questioning where his parents were. He was here on his own. Did they not care about him? He was eating up the attention that I was giving him and he asked me many questions as well.

Throughout the week, I accomplished all the tasks and assignments that I needed to complete. I completed all the tasks at work, school, family and at home. I try to take things one day at a time because there's always so much to do everyday.

My technical skills were satisfactory for the week. I performed an assessment of my patient, assisted the nurse in caring for other patients, and assisted in the administration of the insulin by the professor. My interpersonal communication skills with clients, family members, staff, faculty, and other students were clear and professional.

The teaching that was reinforced through the clinical day was the medication administration procedure. The 10 rights of medication administration are right drug, right patient, right dose, right route, right time, documentation, history, right to refuse, drug interaction and education. The teaching that was reinforced was the pediatric growth chart and percentages. My patient was in the 22nd percentile in height and .6 percentile in weight for his age which was due to his condition.

I think I need to improve with my nurses' note. I need to review note writing, the structure and basic requirements of what should be included in the notes.

Today's clinical reminded me of the Deuteronomy 3:18 where it states, "The LORD himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged." Although I felt that my patient's parents left him, I remembered that God doesn't leave us. We may feel as if we're deserted through life's hardships but we have to hold onto faith and remember His promises to us.