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For this clinical experience, I was more familiar with the floor, so I felt more comfortable with the layout. This week I was assigned a patient and completed a shift assessment. This included taking vitals, and checking the patient's HEENT, lung and thorax, heart and neck, peripheral, abdomen, musculoskeletal, genitourinary, and skin. I also got to help with tracheal tube ties and bathe a one-year-old patient. The greatest challenge I had during my clinical day was not interacting with my patient as much since he was asleep most of the time. I got to assess the patient and see the care done to him with my nurse, but I could not ask him questions or converse with him. Although this was a challenge, I learned a lot and practiced my skills.

This week I learned about my growth in prioritization. Being awake and ready at around 4-5 am is something I am still adjusting to. Although I was scheduled to stay home this week, I had the opportunity to attend clinical, which was a great surprise because I genuinely enjoy being there, so waking up early is better now. Spiritually, I have been trying to become more consistent with my devotionals even though life sometimes gets busy. Professionally, I am more eager to enhance my skills and practice, even if that means doing skills I have not done in a while or ever with guidance. My greatest accomplishment this week was bathing a one-year-old patient since it has been a while since I have bathed someone that age. With the help of Professor, I was able to help assist and regain skills that I had yet to practice recently. For this week's clinical, I monitored vitals, did a head-to-toe assessment, helped bathe a patient, and assisted with tracheal ties. Today I was also able to see different trach tubes. When providing care, I provided privacy, raised the bed for proper body mechanics, scanned the environment, and continued to thank the patient for their cooperation.

This week I communicated with the patient's parents and listened to what they needed help with to help them. Communicating with the patients and adapting to their age range is one skill I aim to improve on. I was able to ask questions to my nurse, and she provided me with information on each skill and also on the patient. Professor Lebo was there to constantly check in on us and help guide us with nursing interventions. Communicating with my classmates was great because we made sure we were all on the same page and would check in with each other if we needed help. For the next clinical, I would like to continue working on applying my knowledge from class to the clinical setting. I still need to work on remembering the difference between adult and pediatric vital signs, but I hope this will become more natural as time progresses. 1 Chronicles 16:11 says, "Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always." This verse reminded me that even when I am discouraged or feel weak, I need to seek Him and know He is the source of my strength.