

Ahuoma Chukwueke

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Mrs. Vanessa Hernandez

This week at clinical I had the opportunity to care for a patient with an interesting diagnosis. Ms. S, a 62-year-old woman with stage 4 metastatic breast cancer, was admitted to the hospital today for shortness of breath, right shoulder pain, and back pain, and I had the opportunity to help a nurse in her treatment. I was a nursing student, so I was anxious to learn and assist the nurse in any way I could. During my shift, I assisted the nurse in several ways, including medicine administration, vitals monitoring, feeding the patient, and general patient care. I listened to lung and heart sounds. I am now better able to record medication given, evaluate a patient's reaction to therapy, and coordinate care with nurses and other medical staff. I witnessed the difficulties Ms. S. encountered on a daily basis as a result of her illness and how much she relied on the nurse and myself for moral support, information, and advocacy. She complained about chronic pain which prompted me to ask my nurse more questions about her conditions. My patient had a history of pleural effusion which definitely added to her pain in her upper back and shortness of breath. The nurse stated that the doctors were managing it by draining the fluid every few days. In order to protect and comfort the patient, the nurse used a number of nursing interventions. She helped the patient breathe more deeply, gave her pain medicine, checked her oxygen levels, and made sure she understood the significance of taking her prescription regularly. During my shift, I got to talk to Ms. S, and we had a great

conversation. She thanked us for our help and opened up about her worries regarding her health. I listened carefully, comforted her, and helped her understand why it was critical to keep a hopeful outlook and follow her doctor's orders.

Overall, this experience taught me how to advocate for my patients' needs, collaborate with other members of the healthcare team, and offer care that is both safe and compassionate. The verse that carried me through was Acts 20:35 “35 In everything I did, I showed you that by this kind of hard work we must help the weak, remembering the words the Lord Jesus himself said: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” I appreciate the nurse teaching me and trusting me to help Ms. S receive the best possible treatment.