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Clinical Journal 2

My clinical this week went very well. I shadowed a nurse who was very eager to teach me and let me follow her around. It is always a more positive experience when a nurse takes students and lets them follow them around, so we can learn as much as we can. She let me give most medications on all of her patients, I was able to communicate with my patients, do assessments, and see the challenges and day to day with my nurse's shift.

My greatest challenge of the day was straight cathing a pediatric patient due to the fact that I have never gotten the opportunity to straight cath a patient before. It was a little challenging with the sterile technique as well. However, my instructor and classmates were there to help and guide me through the situation and I even got a compliment from my patient. It was also very challenging due to the fact that this patient had a lot of complications so it was a lot of nursing interventions. I also wasn't feeling 100%, so to straight cath, deal with a patient with a C-diff, be on contact precautions, and change the ostomy bag was challenging as well. I felt like I was going to pass out, but that is part of the job, sometimes. You have to push forward, to get the job done for your patient.

My greatest accomplishment was my greatest challenge as well because it is always a good feeling when you finish doing something that is stressful and able to accomplish it well. My patient complimenting me meant a lot, because I know he was a very agitated and difficult patient. But it is understandable due to his condition and family background.

I was able to demonstrate my skills by assisting my nurse with medications, which she let me do on my own with her supervision, assess my patients, straight cath one of my patients, bathe him, clean the stoma around the ostomy bag, and measure the output of the ostomy bag.

There are areas of course I always want to improve in with my skills as a nurse, because in clinical it is the only setting where we get practice these skills. It is very different to practice in the lab vs doing it on an actual child, who can be difficult at times.

For me, the bible verse that I would use for this clinical experience, would be “He heals the brokenhearted and bandages their wounds.” Psalm 14:3 (NLT). My patient’s story, background, and medical dx. Completely broke my heart because it is something no one should have to go through, especially a young child. I remember, I just kept praying for my patient throughout the day, asking the Lord to give him peace and comfort him. That verse came to my mind because the Lord is always close to the brokenhearted and mends their wounds, no one can heal pain, especially emotional pain like the Lord can.

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