

**Reflection Journal 1**

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NURS-592: Nursing Education Role Field Experience & Capstone

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My clinical hours with my mentor have been productive in that I have seen and done most aspects of both a clinical instructor and a nurse educator of a hospital. One NLN Nurse Educator Core Competency that I experienced the most was Competency II, which facilitates learner development and socialization. I was able to observe and participate in a full clinical rotation with both a pre-conference and post-conference. The most difficulty that I found in participating in this clinical rotation was finding a complete answer for each student nurse. The questions that these students asked tested my knowledge and my recalling of information was challenging. When working as a staff nurse on a specific specialized unit, questions that were not related to my expertise were conflicting. Nonetheless, this was a learned opportunity to guide students in using their critical thinking skills and assess their knowledge to answer their questions.

This would apply to two of the objectives that I created at the beginning of my clinical hours. I assisted my mentor in facilitating their learning needs during their clinical rotation but also gave constructive feedback and provided effective guidance to these students. An experience I had with a student was when a student was performing medication administration of a subcutaneous injection. I wanted to motivate the students and test their knowledge of the medication. I specifically asked the student the mechanism of action, possible side effects, reason why we are giving this medication, what laboratory results we need to check before administration, and why is it related to our patient's diagnosis. I reminded the five rights of the student and corrected their technique of drawing up the medication from the vial to a subcutaneous syringe. Before administering the medication, I also evaluated their calculation to ensure proper dosage. I find this educational experience important for these students to learn

because it is a process that every nurse experiences each day. This also prepares the students to reduce medication errors in the future.

Another objective that I completed during these hours was collaborating with other healthcare faculty and clinical rotation managers by identifying which unit would produce the most learned experiences for the students. Before the students started their clinical rotation, my mentor and I assessed each unit to see which patients would help facilitate their learning needs. We based it on the topic that they were learning in the classroom and helped find which unit had what we were looking for. Luckily the students were learning the different types of strokes and planned to place some of the students at my workplace during the daytime. Other students were placed in the Cardiac Intensive Care Unit because they had patients who were given tPA and required close observation.

At the end of the clinical rotation in their post-conference, it was a good opportunity to assess each student's learning experience and hear what they have learned during the day. This ensured that the students had a successful learning experience in the hospital and were able to apply their critical thinking skills with the patients with other hospital staff on the units. I am sure I will be able to improve as an educator to facilitate effective learning experiences with students as I continue to complete these hours.