Student Learning Outcome Reflection

2. Reflect on nursing practice in managing care for groups of patients.

After working on the floor for a few hours on the first day of clinical on the pediatric unit, it is easy to recognize the need to prioritize care in order to manage time for patient care. An example of this need is medication administration via IV syringe injection. Medications need to be drawn and diluted followed by administration over a period of time. But, let’s say a patient’s orders on average require three medications administered twice a shift. And, let’s say a nurse can prepare one syringe in five minutes and needs another five minutes to assess the patient and prepare the IV pump for each administration for a total of ten minutes. Medication administration averages about one hour per patient. If the nurse has five patients, the nurse dedicates five hours to medication administration without complication. Furthermore, the nurse must prioritize medication administration based on each patient’s health status.

If all statements above were true, it is easy to comprehend the challenge of nurse management because the example does not take into account any of the other nursing responsibilities or complications a nurse may encounter during the shift. After several hours on the floor, I understand the need for the nurses’ confidence in their own skill sets and their abilities to assess patients’ health status to deliver quality care. The realm of pediatric nursing takes into account many different factors (patient’s health status, development and chronological age, diagnosis and plan of care) and aspects (collaborative care, family care, religious and cultural practices) of delivery of care.

5. Practice as a member of a multi-disciplinary health care team.

The first day on the floor posed a few challenges like navigating through the electronic charting system and collecting patient data to chart for hourly rounding. I felt I was prepared for the day. But, like any new first day, I recognized that while I was not thinking like a nurse should think. I prepared by reviewing developmental age milestones, reviewing physical head-to-toe assessment, and medication administration. However, I was caught off guard a few times, like collecting a fluid volume (correct data but incorrect field, VTBI and not volume infused) and was unfamiliar with the ports and connections on an IV line. Although, these were not life threatening events, I recognized I needed to take a moment to look at what the equipment with which I am working and review the completed work before moving on to the next task. Reviewing prior to the workday is good mental preparation, but in the future I will stop momentarily to think about what I will be doing and take a little more time to examine equipment.