

Community Health Nursing Reflection

My Community Health Nursing course and clinical that I completed as part of Scholar Citizen Initiative (SCI) was very beneficial to my nursing career. This course was a five credit course that entailed eighty-four hours of clinical experience. My clinical experience was at the Salem Veteran's Affairs Medical Center (VAMC) in Salem, Virginia. With this rotation, I was able to work with primary care and quick care clinic nurses who saw mostly non-urgent veterans. I was also able to spend time in the Women's Clinic and Employee Health while completing my clinical at the VAMC. While in the student role, I was able to perform assessments, administer flu vaccinations, Tetanus booster shots, Tuberculin skin tests, and obtain flu and streptococcal nasal and throat cultures. My classroom experience served as a solid foundation for this experience. We learned valuable community nursing skills, such as assessing a community, monitoring outbreaks, and measuring occurrence rates for illness and disease. I was able to take the knowledge gained didactically and apply it clinically.

This experience has attributed to my dynamic abilities as a Radford University Nursing Student. I now understand the importance of assessing a community and a patient's needs before recommending certain practices be carried out. I can now also appreciate the value of a community assessment, even if it is just performed from a windshield survey. I have found that I look at information presented to me differently and also spend time looking at the patient population as a whole, if they have factors in common. For this clinical experience their commonality was being predominantly male veterans living in the New River Valley and parts of West Virginia. I communicated with the nurses in the primary care clinics and was able to determine what were the most common chronic health conditions for this population in this area.

Knowing common chronic health concerns may not seem important to some, but to a nurse, being able to recognize frequent or commonly occurring chronic health conditions for a certain cohort of the population can be pivotal in practice. Recognizing these aspects now will further enable me to better approach educational health prevention methods in my future practice as a nurse. Also, the research and analytical skills gained in this course will better prepare me to join a Magnet designated hospital where best practice and cutting-edge research is employed in everyday practice. I will take the knowledge gained from this SCI designated course and apply it to future clinical practice to promote the betterment of both my patients and my community.