

Essay 4: Managing a Medication Error in Clinical Practice

During my clinical placement in a medical ward, I experienced a situation that deeply shaped my professional growth as a nursing student.

Description:

While preparing medications under supervision, I nearly administered a dose at the wrong time. My clinical instructor noticed the timing discrepancy during the final check and stopped me before the medication was given. No harm came to the patient, but the incident was taken seriously.

Feelings:

I felt shocked, embarrassed, and anxious. I worried that I had compromised patient safety and questioned my competence. At the same time, I felt grateful that the error was caught before causing harm.

Evaluation:

Although the mistake was prevented, it revealed weaknesses in my time management and attention to detail during busy shifts. However, the supportive response from my instructor created a safe learning environment rather than one based on blame.

Analysis:

This experience reinforced the importance of the “five rights” of medication administration and the responsibility nurses carry in ensuring patient safety. I realized that distractions and rushing increase the risk of errors. It also highlighted the value of supervision and double-checking systems in clinical practice.

Conclusion:

The incident strengthened my understanding that patient safety must always come first. Accountability and careful practice are essential components of professional nursing.

Action Plan:

In future practice, I will slow down during medication rounds, minimize distractions, follow safety protocols strictly, and always seek clarification when unsure.