

MRAD 358 Clinical Integration 1 Reflection#1 Reflection: Experiences in the Clinical Environment

Student name: Ulrica Sun

Date: June,20th

Describe your initial impressions of the clinical environment. How did it compare to your expectations?

My first few weeks of clinical placement in medical imaging have been both exciting and challenging. Entering the clinical environment for the first time was very different from being in the classroom. But I find the immersion Friday helped a lot. I expected the department to be busy, but I was surprised by how quickly everything moved and how much teamwork was involved. Technologists, radiologists, nurses, porters all worked together to provide efficient patient care. Although I felt nervous at first, the supportive attitude of the staff helped me become more comfortable and confident in the clinical setting.

One of my initial impressions was the importance of communication. In school, we spend a lot of time learning positioning, anatomy, radiation protection, and imaging theory. During clinical placement, I realized that technical skills alone are not enough. Communicating clearly with patients is essential to gaining their cooperation and ensuring high-quality diagnostic images. I observed that patients often feel anxious, uncomfortable, or in pain, and a calm and professional approach can make a significant difference in their experience.

How has your understanding of the role of a medical imaging professional evolved through this initial clinical experience?

This clinical experience has also changed my understanding of the role of a medical imaging professional. Before placement, I mainly viewed the profession as operating imaging equipment and producing diagnostic images. However, I now understand that the role is much broader. Medical imaging technologists are responsible for patient safety, image quality, radiation protection, and patient advocacy. Every decision, from selecting exposure factors to positioning patients correctly, can directly affect diagnostic outcomes and patient care.

Another important lesson I have learned is the value of adaptability and critical thinking. Not every patient can be positioned according to textbook examples. Patients may have mobility limitations, injuries, or medical conditions that require adjustments to standard procedures. Watching experienced technologists adapt while still obtaining diagnostic images showed me how important problem-solving skills are in clinical practice.

Overall, my first few weeks of clinical placement have been a valuable learning experience. The clinical environment met my expectations in terms of being busy and fast-paced, but it also showed me the importance of teamwork, communication, and patient-centered care. This experience has strengthened my understanding of the profession and increased my confidence as a student. Moving forward, I hope to continue improving my technical skills, communication abilities, and clinical judgment so that I can provide safe and compassionate care as a future medical imaging technologist.


THANK YOU