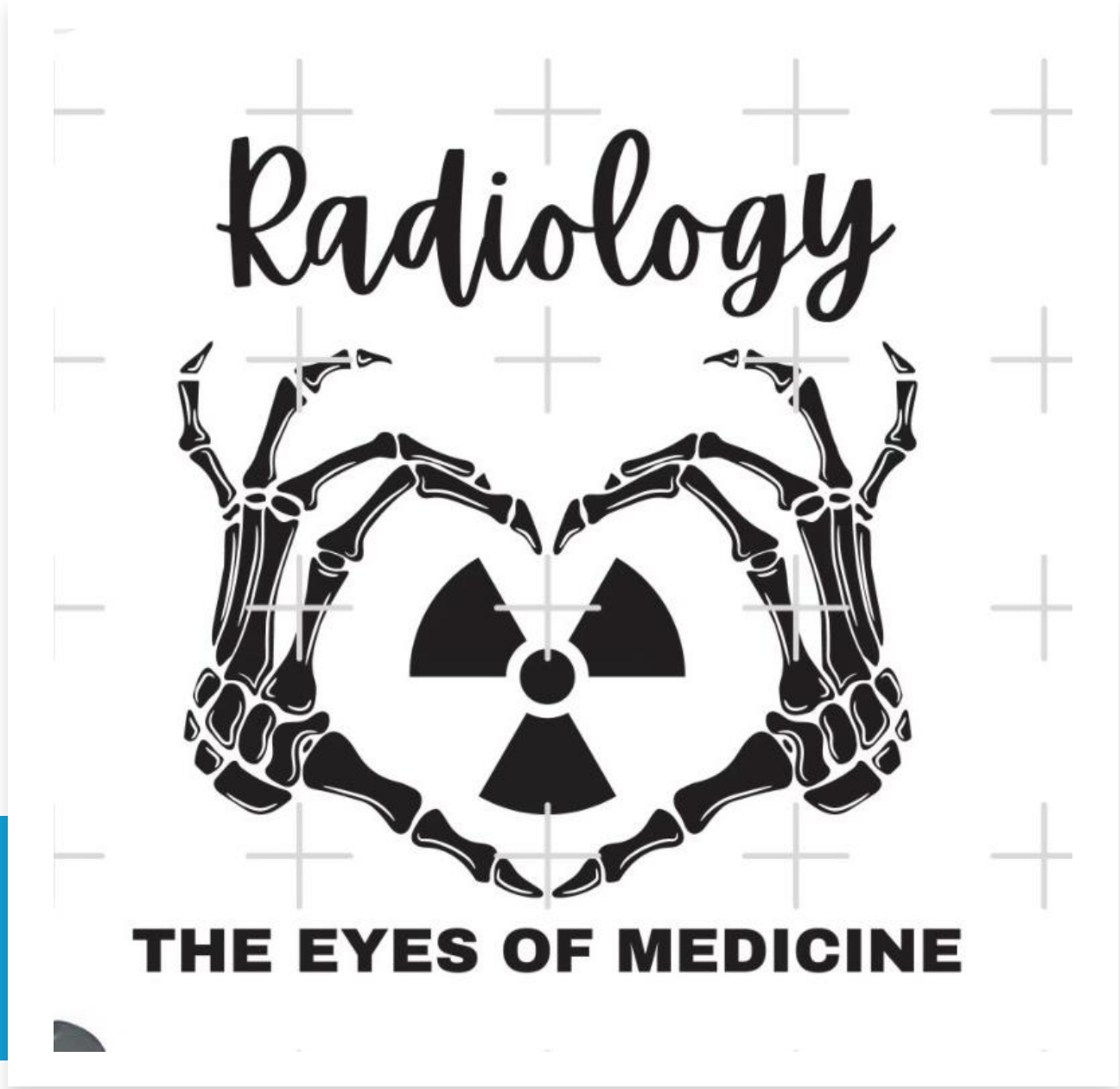


MRAD 358 Clinical Integration 1 Reflection#2 Reflection: Bridging Classroom Knowledge and Clinical Practice

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Identify one concept from your academic studies that became clearer or more meaningful during your clinical placement. Explain how the clinical experience enhanced your understanding.

One concept that became much clearer during my clinical placement was radiation protection and the ALARA (As Low As Reasonably Achievable) principle. In the classroom, I learned the theory behind minimizing radiation exposure through proper collimation, patient positioning, shielding, and selecting appropriate exposure factors. However, seeing these principles applied in a clinical setting gave me a much deeper understanding of their importance.

During my placement, I observed technologists consistently evaluating each patient and examination before exposing. They carefully adjusted techniques based on patient size, condition, and the clinical indication while ensuring image quality remained diagnostic. I also learned how proper collimation not only reduces patient dose but improves image quality by decreasing scatter radiation.

This experience helped me realize that radiation protection is not simply a theoretical concept or a checklist item. It is a professional responsibility that influences every examination we perform. Applying ALARA in real patient situations made the concept more meaningful and reinforced the importance of balancing image quality with patient safety.

Describe an instance where you observed the importance of patient positioning or technique adjustment. How did this relate to what you learned in class?

One experience that stood out involved imaging a patient with limited mobility who was unable to achieve the standard positioning taught in the classroom. Due to pain and restricted movement, the patient could not fully cooperate with the routine positioning requirements. Instead of forcing the patient into an uncomfortable position, the technologist modified the examination by making small adjustments to the patient's body position, tube angle, and image receptor placement.

Despite these modifications, the required anatomy was still demonstrated, and a diagnostic image was obtained while maintaining the patient's comfort and safety. This experience showed me that patient care must always be considered alongside technical requirements.

In class, I learned the ideal positioning criteria for each examination and the anatomical reasons behind them. During clinical placement, I realized that understanding the principles of positioning is more important than simply memorizing steps. Real patients often present challenges that require flexibility and critical thinking. This experience strengthened my appreciation for anatomy, image evaluation, and problem-solving skills, and it demonstrated how classroom knowledge serves as the foundation for making appropriate clinical decisions.


THANK YOU