

Critical Thinking Scenarios Reality Shock

In your last semester of nursing school you note that your clinical instructor changed teaching tactics. No one is looking over your shoulder any longer during every assessment. You are allowed more freedom to perform assessments and make clinical judgments. The clinical hours coincide with normal shift hours. Although this makes you nervous, you realize that this is necessary for your transition into nursing practice.

A. Identify strategies used by the instructor to assist you in your transition.

First year Faculty:

- *Take small steps*
- *Model “best practice”*
- *One on one in assessments*
- *More explanation of procedures in clinical*
- *Exposure to the role of the nurse*

Second Year Faculty:

- *Model “best practice”*
- *Allowed independence depending on the students abilities*
- *Clinical hours similar to normal shifts—during end of third semester and preceptorship*
- *Much more self-critiquing*
- *More expectation that you will seek out answers*
- *Constantly monitor and help you make sense of what you see happening while in the clinical setting*

B. What other steps could the clinical instructor take to assist your transition to nursing?

- *Realistic patient assignments and attempt to apply theory to practice with the assignment*
- *More critical thinking challenges*
- *Request feedback on clinical performance from the instructor or nurse.*

C. What strategies does our nursing program use to assist students to transition into realistic nursing practice? **Do you know yet?**

- *Role Play*
- *Follow other health care professionals to understand roles*
- *All of the above*
- *Electives that augment the learning in the required courses*
- *Open door policy—encourage one on one—faculty to student*
- *Retention specialist*
- *Preceptorship*

D. Identify a support system to assist you during the transition period?