

Cullman Area Workforce Solutions Educator Experience:
Cullman Regional Medical Center
Amanda Smith

The week that I spent at Cullman Regional Medical Center was absolutely wonderful. I am not from the area and before this week had not gone to the hospital before. After my week, as long as I live here I will trust the staff at CRMC for any of my medical needs.

To begin my week I started with the House Supervisor. Wow! I could not do what she does on a daily basis. There were case management meetings every 30 minutes all morning, while trying to schedule patients to be discharged and get rooms cleaned- the house was full. We went and checked in with every department to see if they had any needs in between meetings. In each meeting we met with the nurses and supervisor in that particular department to discuss the patients there and who might be discharged, moved, or need a change in treatment. I spent Monday afternoon in Diagnostic Imaging. While here I was able to see a portable x-ray, a MRI, and a few CT Scans.

Tuesday morning I was in surgery. For my first surgery I watched a total knee replacement. I would not recommend this to anyone who has now seen a surgery firsthand before. While it was quite amazing to see what a surgeon can do in such a short amount of time, it was also quite gut wrenching. I then went to see a lap band procedure. Wow! To me it resembled a video game. The doctor is watching the screen and had the tools in his hands moving them simply based on the video monitor. After surgery I visited the PACU to see how patients come out

of surgery and are then transported to either outpatient or to a room in the hospital. Tuesday afternoon I visited with the marketing department and then the pharmacy. I never realized all that a hospital pharmacy is responsible for.

Wednesday morning I was able to spend some time in the wound care center. It was quite interesting to see all that this part of the hospital encounters. I was unaware of how many diabetic patients have issues with sores on their feet that require treatment in hyperbaric chambers. This treatment, along with treatment of pressure ulcers among many other wounds, is handled here. Wednesday afternoon was spent with two EMTs. Unfortunately we did not have any ambulance calls this afternoon.

Thursday morning brought time in the Cardiovascular Lab. Here I was able to see some catheterizations on lower extremities. The doctor was able to restore blood flow to two separate patients legs. Thursday afternoon I was able to go to the Critical Care Unit. This was the most difficult place for me to visit. Some of these patients were so sick they were unsure if they were going to make it out of the hospital, while others had sent themselves to this unit due to their poor decisions.

Friday was a fun day in the Emergency Room! I met some wonderful nurses who truly have a passion for their patients. These doctors and nurses never know what they may encounter next and are always on their toes. The nurses had such a way with making each and every patient feel at home and comfortable while they were receiving care. If a patient came in at meal time and requested something to eat, with approval, the nurse retrieved a food tray or

whatever the patient felt they could eat or drink at the time. The scariest part of my day in the ER was when a patient came in with chest pains and after the nurse I was with and I left his room from getting him hooked up to monitors and getting an IV started, he coded. Thankfully he was fine after being rushed to have an emergency heart catheterization.

Overall, my week at CRMC was absolutely wonderful. To be able to see all of the different careers that are available at the hospital with various education levels was quite eye opening. After spending time with these doctors and nurses I would trust each and every one of them with my care, if needed, in the future.