



Murse's Diary

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Persistence Makes Perfect



“How are you, my name is Chi-Han and I am the new reporting employee for today.” This was the first sentence I uttered when I walked into the new employee interview room of the Taipei Tzu Chi Hospital. Even though it was just a few simple words, I almost couldn't finish murmuring the sentence. “Oh, are you Chi-Han? We are expecting you. Sit down, please. Talk slowly; there is no need to be so nervous.” Supervisor Mei-Hua Hsu warm-heartedly extended her welcome. Like a stream of fluid entering my system,

suddenly my tightened body relaxed and I felt free to talk to the supervisor. After a short moment of casual chatting, the supervisor started to ask me what area I would like to start working. At the time, I was fresh from school and just finished my military service and I really did not have any idea of what could I do in a big hospital. Obviously, Supervisor Hsu noticed my hesitation. She answered the question for me. She said, "Never mind. Let me help you with your decision. How would you like to serve in the Emergency Room? There, we have a male head-nurse; who will take good care of you. However, let me warn you in advance, it is a tough job working in ER. Can you take the pressure?" Maybe, as in the old Chinese saying: "A new born calf is not afraid of a tiger." I promised the supervisor that I will someday become an outstanding nurse.

The night before I actually reported to work, I sat alone in the emergency room for an hour to observe how the nurses work in the environment. There, I found the smoothness of the workflow and the swiftness of the responses amongst the nurses. Two thoughts came to my mind at the moment:

(1) I would like soon to become one of these sharp nurses.

(2) Do I really have the ability to reach that level of professionalism? In my internship days, I could only slowly handle one patient at a time. What would take to turn into a top professional?

These two thoughts kept coming up all night.

The next morning, I reluctantly walked into the head nurse's office. "Hello! Are you Chi-Han? From now on, I am your chief, my name is Chun-Chao." Simple greeting took away all my nervous. The head nurse introduced to me all that I needed to know in the emergency room. He also laid out the future plan of the department in front of me. Then, he asked me about the vision of my own career.

"I just want to be one of the top nurses like the senior sisters and brothers in this emergency room." I told the chief about my dream last night. "No problem! Be persistent, you will one day become one of us." "Should there be anything bothering you, just go to your chief, who will help you out." I was relieved to meet such a supervisor, Brother Chun-Chao.

The first day on the job, Fei-Ling was assigned as my Big Sister or mentor. She was a very caring senior nurse and couldn't wait to tell me everything about my position. She informed me about the general rules of emergency



medicine. To a beginner, especially for a male nurse trainee who has just been released from military service, I forgot almost all the clinical techniques I learned from school. Fei-Ling noticed that I could not comprehend all what she said and made some adjustments. She slowed down the pace and told me not to hurry. She advised me to do more reading after work. She also told me listening and observations are very important in the emergency department.

One of my urgent shortcomings was to conduct injections. I was originally a left-hander. For some reasons, I was turned into a right-hander with a certain degree of handicap. One day, I found myself missing my shots. The deputy head nurse, Fang-Ling, noticed my dejection as my work shift ended. She came forward and asked me, “Are you depressed because you missed all your shots?” Then, Sister Fang-Ling shared her experience with me. She also inquired the manufacturer if there were any training kits left. With her help, I solved my biggest technical hurdle.

Three months was just a short period of time. Thanks to the tireless directions and instructions of Big Sister Fei-Ling, and the departmental management, I mastered the technical skills and built confidence during a short probation period. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the hard work of all sisters and brothers involved.

“Your patient’s faith is established depending on whether your first shot was successful.” This was one of the saying I picked up on the internet from an experienced ER nurse. Luckily, I often quickly earned the trust of my patients. From my after work reading, I not only improved my professional skills, but also gained confidence with my patients and their family members. Every time, after giving medical instructions to patients and their family members, I can tell their gratefulness and trust from the way they looked at me. These feelings constantly give me job satisfaction and a sense of achievement.

There are two special occasions during my time there .

My older patients often call me their doctor but I always remind them again and again that I am a male nurse. As a result, they wonder when this mostly female occupation becomes genderless. I told them there will be more and more male nurses in the future, and also assure them that a male nurse is as dedicated as a female nurse.



Another event was an episode of patient's violence which imprinted deeply in my memory. One time, there was a mental/physical patient holding a knife in the ER. To calm down the patient, the doctor ordered an injection. The task naturally was upon the shoulder of a male nurse. I was a little afraid of performing such a risking task. However, I realized that this is when the real value of a male nurse. This is the time that 'we' should not only serve our patients, but also to protect our female colleagues.

Now I have practiced emergency medicine for almost two years. Gradually, I started to lead the junior nurses. But I still see myself as a beginner. I can easily find the needs and shortcomings of the fresh nurses and provide them with timely assistance. I would tell them that reading after work is not an insult from the seniors. The knowledge one gain from reading helps tremendously in patient interaction. With two years of experience, I am still humble when it comes to learning. Hopefully, by the time I share with people my experience; I become an excellent ER expert.