The Clinical Placement – An essential guide for nursing students 2nd Edition by Associate Professor Tracey Levett-Jones and Dr Sharon Bourgeois

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The purpose of this book is to assist students negotiate the minefield of clinical placements. While it targets the undergraduate nursing student, it is a useful resource for academic staff and clinicians. Although the book is focused predominantly on nursing within Australia and New Zealand, much of Levett-Jones and Bourgeois work would be useful to students in other countries.

The book aids students in preparing for clinical placements by giving insight into various clinical areas. The first three chapters include: an outline the expectations of clinicians, patients and students; how the student should act on their placements; who they can talk to about their placement, and other aspects of clinical placement including cultural safety, advocacy, teamwork, harassment, practice principles and much more. This information is helpful in developing the student’s understanding of what to expect on clinical placement. The information is clear and concise, reinforcing the importance of professionalism and responsibility to the patients they care for and the colleagues they work with.

Chapter 4 examines the Reflective Process: what this means to a person, considering the personal and professional aspects of life. Chapter 5 is particularly helpful in orientating students to documentation and communication within the health sector outlining great tips. The tables within the chapters are clear and concise affording the reader quick reference points. Chapter 6 outlines various nursing opportunities in specialist placement areas aviation nursing, international placements, justice health nursing and many more. The contributors to this section as well as giving an overview of their specific area, have outlined specific learning opportunities, preparation for placement and the challenges that the students may encounter while on a clinical placement within an unfamiliar placement as well the more traditional placements in the acute medical and surgical areas. It is interesting reading and certainly opens up the imagination of clinical placements for students.

The stated purpose of the book in outlining student’s preparation to negotiate clinical placements is achieved. The contributing authors give an excellent overview and summary of all aspects of clinical placement, and provide coaching tips and activities that students, facilitators or practice partners may use to improve the clinical experience for all involved. This book will serve as an excellent resource for students, clinicians, and academic staff.