

Memorandum

To: Miss Helen Wooten, Adviser
From: Ove Jensen, Student Intern *OJ*
Date: March 5, 20—
Subject: Job Shadowing a Radiologic Technologist at Grove Park Hospital

February has been a productive period in my second month of job-shadowing Ms. Laticia Garcia, radiologic technologist at Grove Park Hospital. The month was filled with action and variety. I observed work in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, the MRI (Magnetic Resonance Imaging) section, and the Radiology Lab. In addition, I completed one of the three research papers required for earning academic credit.

Neonatal Intensive Care Unit

During my first session with Ms. Garcia last month, which took place in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, I watched radiologists work with medically fragile premature and newborn babies. Ms. Garcia used an ultrasound machine to obtain images of the brains of two patients.

I further observed Ms. Garcia use a portable X-ray device to take film of the chest and abdomen of another young patient. Some of the infants in this unit weigh as little as 1 pound and are connected to many pieces of support equipment, such as respirators and heart monitors. These patients present unique challenges to radiologic technologists.

MRI Section

Because Ms. Garcia is a rotation supervisor, I was able to observe the operation of the MRI machine while she worked in that area. This room-sized piece of imaging equipment serves a variety of purposes in diagnosing patients' problems. During the four hours I shadowed Ms. Garcia in the MRI section, she worked with the following patients:

- An 82-year-old stroke patient
- A 14-year-old automobile crash victim with head trauma
- A quarterback for the university football team with a knee injury
- A 36-year-old woman suffering back pain

Everything about this machine is computer-driven, so I became a little restless in the control room while the patients were undergoing treatment. The problem was that I did not understand the computer jargon that the technologists were using, nor did I understand what I was seeing when I looked at the images on the computer screen. Many of the technologists were in a hurry and did not have time to explain the images to me.

Radiology Lab

Observing Ms. Garcia in the Radiology Lab gave me an opportunity to witness a wide range of uses of radiologic technology as well as to see the necessity for accurate reporting. A patient's well-being may depend on the technologist's communication skills.

Researched Reports

Because my goal is to earn academic credit toward graduation, I am submitting one researched report, Using Ultrasound in Diagnosing Brain Hemorrhage, along with this monthly report. I am conducting research now for the second report and plan to finish it by the end of March. I should have the final paper completed by the end of April or the first week in May.

Conclusion

My experiences with Ms. Garcia in February were worthwhile and exciting. In fact, after observing technologists use several types of equipment, I have found that my greatest interest is in ultrasound. So I am considering work in that area as a career goal. When we meet next, I would like to discuss the educational requirements for such a career and the possibility of shadowing someone during the spring semester who works solely with ultrasound.