

2020

My patient who said, "I am coming along, right?"

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Recommended Citation

Chhantyal, Minu (2020) "My patient who said, "I am coming along, right?"; *SANA: Self-Achievement through Nursing Art*. Vol. 1 : Iss. 1 , Article 18.

Available at: <https://digitalcommons.fairfield.edu/sana/vol1/iss1/18>

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Title: *My patient who said, "I am coming along, right?"*

It was just another day of my work. I came to work after being off for couple of days. I was refreshed and ready. I got report for my assigned patient and went to see him. He had abdominal surgery, unable to extubate from the breathing tube so came to my unit, Surgical Intensive Care Unit.

When I went to see him, eyes were gently close. As soon as I went in his room, he heard me and opened his eyes. He was older gentleman. His calmness and the glow in his eyes caught my attention as soon as he opened his eyes. He looked comfortable like someone sleeping at home in their bed. Even with all the lines, cables, and breathing tube, he was maintaining his calm that he did not need any mitts or restraints. I said, "good morning" and he nodded his head and responded to me. I introduced myself to him saying, "My name is Minu and I will be your nurse today." He responded again nodding his head and speaking with his bright eyes. He already made my day by then. I told him, "I will review the chart and will be back to do my assessment." His hands were free without restraints and he had the call bell in his hand. I told him to use the call bell if he needed anything. He nodded yes and I left. Soon after, I got a call from his daughter. I was happy to talk to her and update how sweet of a patient he is and how well he is doing. I said, "Surgical ICU, this is Minu. How can I help you?" the voice on the other side was as calm as my patient who I just saw. I gave her some general updates. She did not have many questions either. She just wanted to make sure that he had a good night. She said she will be in later. I said see you later and we hung up.

Later that day, we extubated him and he did well. He said, "I am coming along, right?" I said, "Yes! You are." His daughters came in and I updated everyone about his plan of care. They did not have any further questions. For the few days he was in the SICU, he did come across some complications however, every time I would go to him, he would say, "I am coming along, right?" His family had a routine, especially his daughter; call in the morning and visit in the late afternoon every day. He did come along after all. He was downgraded to intermediate care level status and to the floor status next day. I wished him good luck with everything. Of all the chaos that can go around the hospital, especially, critical care unit, he remained calm. I was impressed by his positivity and perseverance. His vibes reminded me to stay positive, passionate and continue to strive to become the best possible nurse that I can be.