

# My Practicum Journey at St. Michael's Hospital

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## The Organization

- **Unity Health Toronto** is a health network comprised of St Michael's Hospital, St Joseph's Health Centre and Providence Healthcare, serving patients along the entire continuum of care
- Located in downtown Toronto, **St. Michael's Hospital** is a Level 1 Trauma Centre, notable for patient care



## My Responsibilities

At **St. Michael's Hospital**, I worked within **Surgery and Critical Care**, shadowing a **Project Manager II**.

I was responsible for the completion of various different **quality improvement (QI)** projects, such as:

- the revision of the PACU record and the perioperative departments' **Policies and Procedures**
- the updating of **Code Orange staff contact log**

## The Experience & Its Significance

I completed my QI projects through the conduction of a **literature review** and **environmental scan**. This ensured coherence, accuracy and best practice when amending the documents.

- Conducting an **environmental scan** allowed me to understand and compare the processes between St. Michael's Hospital's current PACU record and P&Ps, to external organizations'. Additionally, through the completion of the **literature review**, I have been able to apply a concept taught in our undergraduate degree to a real world context.

Furthermore, I shadowed clinical professionals within various departments (Regional Anesthesia & PACU), allowing me to observe the various workflows and processes. I also had the privilege of **observing a surgery** and was able to view the transfer of a patient between departments- a truly **unique** and **fascinating** experience!

- Shadowing various clinical professionals allowed me to directly observe workflows and processes, providing me with knowledge on the department and clinical operations, and immensely supporting my work on the QI projects. Observing clinical process provided me with valuable knowledge and comprehension which was immensely beneficial for my placement but which ultimately will be valuable for my career in healthcare.

I partook in various meetings that occurred at St. Michael's Hospital, allowing me to strengthen my knowledge base. My experiences enhanced my abilities to work both **independently** and in a professional **team environment**.



## Words of Advice

This practicum provides you with invaluable, rewarding experience; it allows you to work within the sector, and apply the many concepts learned through your undergrad to real world contexts.

**Enjoy every moment at placement (*it flies by!*) and be grateful for every opportunity you are presented.**

## Reflection

My placement allowed me to participate in and familiarize with various aspects of the healthcare sector I previously was not exposed to. I was able to witness clinical workflows and processes and engage with clinical professionals, allowing me to understand the current gaps and demands. These experiences provided me with better perspective and knowledge when completing my QI projects.

**My practicum solidified my interest in quality improvement.** The many opportunities and experiences I received during placement provided me with further clarity on career paths and interests, and allowed me to gain critical experience, which will be instrumental for my career in healthcare.