

My experience in the Pediatrics Department at Queens Hospital Center was overall amazing. I was able to work with a diverse patient population from various ethnic backgrounds, ranging in age from one day old to seventeen years old, across multiple clinical settings.

The first three weeks were spent in the Pediatric Emergency Department, which allowed me to hone my physical examination skills and utilize equipment that required further refinement, such as the otoscope and ophthalmoscope. The preceptors were exceptional, offering guidance on how to systematically and efficiently interview patients while ensuring that critical information related to the medical complaint was not overlooked.

In the fourth week I was placed in the Pediatric Clinic, which operated at a different pace and allowed for more time to build relationships with patients and their families. Seeing the same provider over time helped foster trust and strong patient-provider bonds. This experience taught me that maintaining good rapport with both patients and families is essential when delivering effective healthcare.

My final week was spent in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU), which I found to be the most exciting and rewarding. I was able to make a meaningful impact by caring for and supporting patients as they progressed to full term and were ultimately discharged from the NICU. This experience had a lasting influence on my career considerations and solidified my interest in pursuing Pediatrics, specifically NICU as a sub-specialty in the future.