

My most memorable moment in nursing was when I was at Hutzul Hospital doing my OB clinical for my LPN course. It was my second to last week on the OB floor and I still hadn't seen a birth. We just came on the floor and a registered nurse anesthetist (RNA) was looking for someone who spoke Spanish. The RNA needed a translator for a laboring woman who was about to receive an epidural. My instructor looked at me and assigned me to assist the RNA and to help the woman in labor. I was excited to help and I knew I was finally going to be able to actually witness a birth. I went into the room and introduced myself to the laboring woman; she was relieved to have someone there for her who could explain what the doctors and nurses were saying to her and to be able to communicate through me with the staff. As I was talking to her I found out that she was a patient at a local community health center where I worked and was receiving prenatal care there. I thought, "What a coincidence". The RNA prepared to give her the epidural. I helped to position her and explain the procedure to her. After receiving the epidural she was experiencing leg pain and was quite uncomfortable. I let the RNA know and she came to assess her. The RNA had me explain to her that the pain she is experiencing should go away soon. We continued to monitor the patient and soon her symptoms became absent. The labor progressed and the patient was now ready to begin pushing. I was there to tell her when it was okay to push. I stood at her bedside and held her hand while she pushed. She squeezed my hand very tightly and the baby began to crown. Soon a healthy seven pound baby girl by the name of Isabella was born. It was a wonderful experience. The new mother and father thanked me along with the nurses. One month later Isabella had her physical check up at the clinic where I worked and I gave her her first immunizations.

Sylvia Garcia