

RWJBarnabas
HEALTH

Robert Wood Johnson
University Hospital
Somerset

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Our mission: We are an academic health system, partnering with our communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey.



2023 NURSING *Annual Report*



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HEALTH**

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FROM OUR LEADERSHIP



Nurse-Driven Quality and Compassion

We are incredibly proud of our Magnet nursing team, now 700+ members strong. Their commitment to excellence and compassionate care truly sets Robert Wood Johnson University Hospital (RWJUH) Somerset apart and helps us deliver the highest quality care to our community, as demonstrated across various fronts in 2023.

After several years of addressing challenges related to the post-pandemic health care environment, the past year allowed for grounding and re-centering opportunities. Through staff collaboration and input paired with recruitment and retention efforts, we have significantly reduced turnover while growing and strengthening our nursing workforce. During the past year, our nurses have also been integral to improving outcomes across nursing sensitive indicators, additional quality measures and patient experience data. This not only translates into improved patient care, but it also showcases a supportive work environment with strong interdisciplinary collaboration.

As you'll read within these pages, we've made great strides in advancing patient care in meaningful, data-driven ways. New rounding technology piloted here at RWJUH Somerset is now in full use by nursing leaders and our Patient Experience Department – as well as across RWJBarnabas Health (RWJBH) – enabling real-time solutions to patient concerns and significantly improving patient satisfaction scores. We've added dedicated rapid response nurses to our team, enhancing patient safety and serving as a resource to staff across the hospital. In addition, our nurses have developed noteworthy initiatives in areas such as sepsis compliance, patient privacy and patient education.

Likewise, we've added resources to support the holistic needs of our nurses and staff. A new Zen Den developed with team member input now serves as a calming space for them to take a few minutes to care for themselves so they can continue to optimally care for patients. In addition, new safety technology has advanced communication for when team members need support or simply a helping hand.

It's impressive to witness the culture that our RWJUH Somerset nurses and team members have created and continue to nurture. At its root is a common goal to meet the needs of our patients with compassion and exceptional care. This aligns with the new RWJBH mission that unites us: We are an academic health system, partnering with our communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey. As we look to the future, we're reinvigorated and excited to see where this path leads.

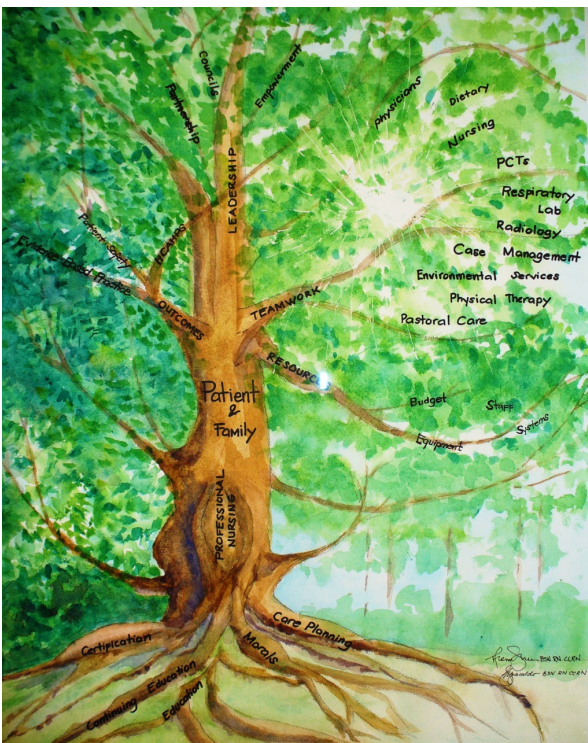
.Sincerely,

Michael Valendo, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CEN

Chief Nursing Officer and
Vice President of Nursing

Jamie Perry, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Assistant Vice President
of Nursing



Professional Practice Model

The RWJUH Somerset professional practice model, “Our Caring Tree,” represents the Ten Carative Factors of the nursing professional practice model defined by Jean Watson, RN, PhD. This approach sees nursing as a human science that focuses on the process of caring for individuals, families and groups. Through caring transactions, nurses assist people in gaining a higher degree of harmony within the mind, body and soul.

The tree image represents how nurses are rooted in excellence and continually seek to transform, empower and inspire. It reflects nurse, patient and family relationships, the foundations of professional practice, the standards of care that ensure a nurturing

environment and the shared governance structure that supports patient care delivery.

- Based upon sound judgment, competence, evidence-based research and ethics, adaptation is key in our ever-changing health care environment.
- Methods of quality improvement, research and innovation refine our practice.
- Nurses serve as leaders, aspiring for the highest level of judgment, ethics and standards. Leadership is recognized through accountability and accepting the responsibilities, privileges and rights within our professional practice.

Mission, Vision and Values

The nursing team at RWJUH Somerset embraces the new RWJBarnabas Health mission, vision and values that were adopted in January 2024:



Our Mission: We are an academic health system, partnering with our communities to build and sustain a healthier New Jersey.



Our Vision: RWJBarnabas Health will be the premier health care destination providing patient-centered, high-quality academic medicine in a compassionate and equitable manner, while delivering a best-in-class work experience to every member of the team.



Our Values:

- **Accountability:** An acceptance of responsibility for honest and ethical conduct towards others.
Synonyms: responsibility, liability
- **Compassion:** Sympathetic concern for the sufferings or misfortunes of others.
Synonym: understanding
- **Curiosity:** A strong desire to know or learn something.
Synonyms: interest, inquisitiveness
- **Empathy:** The ability to understand and share the feelings of another.
Synonyms: sensitivity towards, understanding of
- **Excellence:** The quality of being outstanding or extremely good.
Synonyms: greatness, superiority
- **Kindness:** The quality of being friendly, generous and considerate.
Synonym: selflessness
- **Respect:** A feeling of deep admiration for someone or something elicited by their abilities, qualities or achievements.
Synonyms: esteem, regard
- **Teamwork:** The combined action of a group of people, especially when effective and efficient.
Synonyms: partnership, synergy

TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP



Transformational Leadership

At RWJUH Somerset, nurses at all levels and in all roles serve as transformational leaders who share in decision-making to achieve the organization's mission and to inspire nursing practice across the care continuum. Exemplary safety, service and quality outcomes are achieved through open communication, execution of a well-defined nursing strategic plan, application of a well-articulated nursing philosophy and a vision that supports nursing excellence in an ever-changing health care environment.

Rounding Technology Improves Patient Satisfaction

In an initiative designed to enhance the patient experience through consistent, structured interactions, RWJUH Somerset piloted and implemented Huron Intelligence Rounding as a daily rounding tool across inpatient units. This advanced web-based technology gives nursing leaders and the Patient Experience team the ability to track and trend daily rounding and address patient feedback in real time. Linked to the Epic electronic health record and accessed via an app on a work cell phone or unit iPad, the technology provides tools, checklists and questions for both clinical and non-clinical rounding.

“It gives us a very clear, organized framework that expands our ability to elicit actionable feedback,” explains Irene Dela Cruz, BSN, RN, RN-BC, coordinator for the Patient Experience Department, pictured left, who often is joined by nursing leadership on her non-clinical Huron rounds. “Having

this technology means we can document any issues immediately and contact the appropriate team members to address them in a meaningful, prompt way.”



The technology has since been rolled out across RWJBH. Prior to the rollout, RWJUH Somerset nurses and team members helped customize the technology to ensure that rounding questions were purposeful, worded optimally and in the appropriate template. They created a priority matrix to guide team members on which issues required more immediate interventions. In addition, they participated in training sessions to convey the importance of the technology at other RWJBH sites.

“Not only is Huron technology faster and more efficient, but we can also better tune in to what’s important to our patients and ensure they understand care aspects like medication side effects,” says Kashawna Still, BSN, RN, PCCN-K, director of the 2-East Cardiac Pavilion, one of the first units to pilot the technology. “It gives us an opportunity to coach staff in real time as well as provide recognition from patients.”

Since the implementation of Huron rounding, patient satisfaction in three major domains – rating of the hospital, communication with nurses and communication with physicians – has far exceeded target thresholds. In fact, RWJUH Somerset was recognized by Huron and RWJBH as a leading hospital achieving meaningful change in purposeful rounding.

Rapid Response Nurses Provide Expertise and Support

Rapid response calls at RWJUH Somerset traditionally have been handled by house coverage advanced practice providers, respiratory therapists, the primary nurse and nursing educators when available. In 2023, this expertise expanded to include rapid response team (RRT) nurses dedicated to this role.

“Having RRT nurses has been a huge help to our APNs and PAs and an excellent resource for nurses at the bedside,” says Megan Madara, MSN, RN, APN-C, director of Allied Health Professionals and House Coverage. “They bring a wealth of critical care experience to their role, which is especially reassuring for newer nurses during a crisis.”

In addition to making rapid responses more efficient, RRT nurses round on units across the hospital to assess patients, talk with nurses and serve as a resource. They’re available to insert IVs for patients with difficult access as well as ultrasound-guided and midline IVs.

“Since the start of the RRT program, the number of midline insertions nearly doubled from 117 in May 2023 to 229 in December,” notes Monika Ramirez, MSN, RN, PCCN, director of Clinical Operations Nursing. “Compared to PICC lines, midlines are a less invasive way to enable longer-term access for patients who need medication after discharge.”

Three RRT nurses are available from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m., and RWJUH Somerset is planning to expand this program to include the night shift.

“We’re creating a culture of empowerment where newer nurses know it’s OK to request help when needed,” says RRT clinical nurse Karen Feng, BSN, RN, pictured center. “Nurses are more apt to ask questions when someone in this type of supportive role is available for teaching moments. Plus, we can serve as a calming presence in emergency situations.”



STRUCTURAL EMPOWERMENT



Structural Empowerment

Solid structures and processes have been developed at RWJUH Somerset to support nurses' professional development, promote participation in community and population health outreach activities and recognize nurses for their contributions in achieving strategic priorities. Interprofessional collaboration and participation in shared governance councils are encouraged to promote an innovative and research-intensive professional practice environment in which nurses, patients, families, colleagues and the community at large flourish.

Zen Den Opens for Staff Respite

Nursing leadership, educators and nurses across all departments meet regularly as part of RWJUH Somerset's Nursing Workplace Environment and Staffing Council (NWESC), an initiative developed by the Organization of Nurse Leaders of NJ (ONL) to foster a healthier work environment. In 2023, NWESC collaborated across numerous disciplines - including Employee Experience, Operations and Security - to establish a Zen Den as a safe space that any team member can use to decompress (see photo on page 5).

In repurposing a room conveniently located on the Orthopedic Pavilion near the corridor connecting to 1-East and upstairs from the Emergency Department, NWESC members provided creative insight into the layout, furniture, color scheme and ambience to achieve a calming space. The room features dimmable lights, a television, a beautiful divider screen and a door placard to indicate when the Zen Den is in use.

"We gained staff input as work on the room progressed, which is how the privacy sign came about," says CJ Cruz, administrative director of Operations. "We wanted to ensure that the team's voices were heard in creating this comfortable space."

A ribbon-cutting celebration was held to open the Zen Den in June 2023, and team member feedback has been positive.

"You can't hear noise or beeping machines in the room even though it's near nursing units, so it's ideal for taking a few minutes to regroup during a stressful day," says oncology clinical nurse and NWESC member Sandra McNelis, BSN, RN. "It's a soothing space where we can care for ourselves, and that's so important in order to care for others."



New Devices Promote Safety and Support

The 5-West inpatient behavioral health unit often requires one-on-one watches for high-risk patients, and unit staff advocated for an improved safety measure to contact hospital Security when needed. After "speaking up for safety," 40 panic alarms are now available to team members on patient one-on-one watches. When utilized, the emergency contact devices immediately alert Security to provide on-scene assistance.

"We developed education on how to use, wear and clean the devices, and we worked with our educators to incorporate this information into the staff e-learning module," says Monika Ramirez, MSN, RN, PCCN, director of Clinical Operations, Nursing Administration. "Team members have appreciated these wearable devices, which are now available in the nursing office for staff across the hospital to pick up and return at the end of their shifts."

In 2023, 5-West also piloted the use of Vocera hands-free communication devices that can be used to alert Security or request help from other unit staff - all of whom receive the alert and can hear the caller speak. The technology also shows the location of the caller.

"The Vocera devices are extremely helpful, especially because in some cases you just need an extra set of hands," says 5-West nurse manager Nicole Wilkins, MSN, RN. "Security or colleagues can see exactly where you are, and you can quickly get help when needed."

CENTER FOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT, INNOVATION AND RESEARCH

The Center for Professional Development, Innovation and Research (CPDIR) provides staff with opportunities to practice, learn and grow professionally in an increasingly complex and challenging health care environment. The team is committed to providing structural empowerment for family-centered care, shared decision-making, autonomy and clinical excellence. By incorporating high reliability organization (HRO) principles, CPDIR helps ensure that outcomes and safety are always priorities.

Shared Governance Councils

Shared governance provides an organizational framework that empowers clinical nurses to participate in and lead decision-making processes. Through unit-based departmental councils, the shared governance model provides a forum for the exchange of ideas and information that enhances the quality of nursing care and promotes clinical excellence through accountability and collaboration.



Education Council

Tina Horton, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRN, Chair

Education Council representatives disseminate current and ongoing educational activities and updates to their nursing units while serving as a resource to identify and address unit-specific educational needs.



Magnet Enculturation Council

Deslin Jackson, BSN, RN, Chair

Members of the Magnet Enculturation Council support the Magnet framework of facilitating professional growth and continuous lifelong learning by increasing the academic progression of education in nursing, promoting continuing competencies, developing leaders and facilitating educational opportunities supporting the advancement of the profession through evidence-based practice.



Nursing Performance Improvement (PI) Council

Heather Davis, BSN, RN, OCN, Chair

As part of shared governance efforts, the Nursing Performance Improvement (PI) Council meets monthly to recommend appropriate actions for quality assurance and performance improvement activities across the organization.



Patient/Family Education Council

Susana Veranga, BSN, RN, CEN, Chair

This council provides a forum for a systematic, multidisciplinary approach to facilitate the assessment, design, planning, implementation and evaluation of patient and family educational resources, materials and programs. The council strives to ensure appropriate literacy levels in educational materials for patients and families.



Professional Practice Council

Sean Mullen, ASN, RN, OCN, CNRN, SCRN, Chair

Members of the Professional Practice Council ensure that nursing practice standards are ethical, current, evidence-based, theoretically sound and aligned with RWJUH Somerset's strategic goals.

NURSE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

In May 2023, RWJUH Somerset held a celebration to honor Nurse Excellence Award recipients, present scholarships and recognize Nurse Residency Program graduates.



Magnet Nurse of the Year Award Maisy Koshy, BSN, RN, CCRN, PACU

Maisy was nominated as Nurse of the Year for her compassion and empathy, effective communication with patients and colleagues and dedication to ongoing nursing education and professional development. In the words of her nominator, "Her commitment to excellence sets a high standard for all nurses and her contributions to nursing are an inspiration to us all."

Transformational Leadership Award

Eileen Allen, MSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, Magnet/Quality

Structural Empowerment Award

4-West Unit Based Practice Council

Exemplary Professional Practice Award

Heather De Bari, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, Labor & Delivery

New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements Award

Maria Potestas, BSN, RN, CCRN, PACU

Community Outreach Award

Rosemarie Gungon, BSN, RN, Eating Disorders Unit

Advanced Practice Provider Award

Martha Kelly, MSN, APN, RN, ACNP-BC, Allied Health Professionals & House Coverage

Nursing Technician/Technologist Award

Kwadwo Brako, Oncology

Friend of Nursing Award

John Perone, Facilities



Professional Development and Magnet Enculturation Scholarship Awards

Rosita Baker, BSN, RN, RNC-LRNN, Labor & Delivery,
MSN Scholarship Recipient

Ann Nampaso, BSN, RN, 5-West, MSN Scholarship Recipient



The Lynn Kearney Memorial Scholarship Recipients

This scholarship, established in memory of RWJUH Somerset's former chief nursing officer, carries on Lynn Kearney's legacy by supporting a new generation of nurses who are pursuing nursing programs.

- Urenna Colaire, BSN, RN, Center for Professional Development, Innovation and Research
- Jazmin Cruz, MSN, RN, RN-BC, Center for Professional Development, Innovation and Research
- Liza Davidov, BSN, RN, CCRN, Critical Care
- Brianna Davis, 1-East
- Melanie Mallari, 1-East
- Joseph Naples, ASN, RN, CEN, Emergency Department
- Caitlyn Paglia, BSN, RN, CCRN, Critical Care
- Oscar Zubieta, 2-East Cardiac Pavilion



Nurse Residency Program Graduates

Emily Demouth, BSN, RN, Endoscopy

Alexandria Friar, BSN, RN, 2-East Cardiac Pavilion

Amanda Rodriguez, BSN, RN, Critical Care

Stephen Valvano, BSN, RN, Emergency Department



The DAISY Award FOR EXTRAORDINARY NURSES

IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

Extraordinary Nurses Recognized with DAISY Awards

Established by the DAISY Foundation™ and coordinated at RWJUH Somerset by the Magnet Enculturation Council, the DAISY Award® recognizes the extraordinary, compassionate care that nurses provide for patients and families.



Mary Pat Adams, BSN, RN, Pre-Admission Testing

In nominating Mary Pat, a colleague wrote, "In all the endeavors Mary Pat has undertaken, she has had not just the patients in mind, but the department and its staff. She often reminds others of our department's strength and capability, ensures that our staff is not overburdened or burned out and advocates for all. She is a fitting example of our hospital and nursing values, and I am honored to work beside her."



Uzunma Emezua, BSN, RN, Oncology Pavilion

A family member recounted how Uzunma went above and beyond to make his mother comfortable and demonstrate extraordinary acts of kindness in ensuring her needs were met. He described how Uzunma was so kind, friendly, patient and compassionate and how receptive his mother was to her care. In his words, "I didn't know there were still angels out there until I met Uzunma."



Ashley Hernandez, ASN, RN, 2-East Cardiac Pavilion

In nominating Ashley, a family member wrote, "Ashley is wonderful, kind and compassionate. I haven't seen a nurse like this in a very, very long time. We constantly heard her name being called by patients and on the overhead speakers, yet she still found some way to make time for our family member and our family. Ashley really left a strong impact on our family, and we are very thankful for her."



Victoria Lamzon, BSN, RN, 2-East Cardiac Pavilion

In the words of a colleague, "Vicky is consistently going above and beyond for her patients and families. She shows true visionary leadership by not only being the preceptor for many of our new graduate nurses, but by also being the charge nurse. She consistently brings back ideas to increase patient satisfaction and enhance the patient experience. This organization is lucky to have such a motivated and passionate nurse."



Alexa Povelaitis, BSN, RN, 1-South Mother Baby

Alexa, a new nurse, was recognized for providing exceptional care to a newborn baby. Her colleague wrote: "Everyone was always on top of things and did a fantastic job. Alexa in particular did a great job making sure the baby had everything needed and everything was done in a timely manner while keeping patient safety as the primary concern."

Nurse Employees of the Month:



**Sandra Buen,
BSN, RN**
Oncology Pavilion



**Uzunma Emezua,
BSN, RN**
Oncology Pavilion



**Haley Resch,
BSN, RN**
1-East

New Jersey Council of Magnet
Organizations (NJCOMO)
Jan Moran Nursing Excellence
Scholarship Award
**Kathleen Wilson,
MSN, RN, CNL, SCRN**

Nurses Embrace Community Outreach

RWJUH Somerset respects and celebrates the unique backgrounds of its nurses and all employees. The hospital has earned national recognition for its diversity and inclusion efforts, and it encourages and supports related outreach initiatives. Through various community outreach initiatives, nurses and other health care providers partner to promote healthy behaviors, improve access to primary and preventive care and reduce health disparities.



Reaching Out and Giving Back

In 2023, the nursing team at RWJUH Somerset led presentations and supported more than 80 community events and health screenings, including outreach to underserved populations at churches, health fairs and other venues.

Nurses also helped coordinate multiple donation drives for items ranging from diapers, backpacks and personal hygiene items to food and gifts during the holidays.



PROUD Symposium Promotes Healthy Equity

In September, RWJUH Somerset's Babs Siperstein PROUD Center held a day-long symposium on "Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community: A Symposium of Inclusion and Understanding" for more than 250 attendees at The Palace at Somerset Park. Funded through a grant from TD Bank, the event convened leaders from the state's health care, education, law enforcement and advocacy communities to foster greater awareness of issues facing the LGBTQ+ community and develop collaborative solutions.

Sean Patrick Riley, MSN, RN, APN, CNL, clinical lead for the PROUD Center, pictured right, joined fellow staff along with team members from the PROUD Gender Center at RWJUH New Brunswick to present a breakout session on "LGBTQ+ Sensitivity in Health Care." Riley also participated in a panel discussion on "A Conversation with LGBTQ+ Healthcare Providers" with Jonathan Keith, MD, RWJUH Somerset plastic surgeon, pictured left, and Kim Keyes, LCSW, behavioral health therapist with the Babs Siperstein PROUD Center.



Honoring Veterans

RWJUH Somerset's VETS Business Resource Group (BRG) held a Veterans Day luncheon to recognize and honor employee veterans. Nursing supervisor Amelia C. de Asa-Weiland, RN, MSN, CCRN, a lieutenant colonel and an aeromedical evacuation flight nurse for the United States Air Force Reserve, was the keynote speaker. She shared her personal story as a combat veteran with multiple deployments served in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

In addition to coordinating special events, the interdisciplinary VETS BRG rounds twice each week on all military veteran patients to thank them for their service and provide them with a gift bag that includes information on community resources for veterans. Nurse members of the VETS BRG include Megan Madara, MSN, RN, APN-C, director of Allied Health Professionals and House Coverage, pictured right, and Irene Dela Cruz, BSN, RN, RN-BC, coordinator, Patient Experience Department.

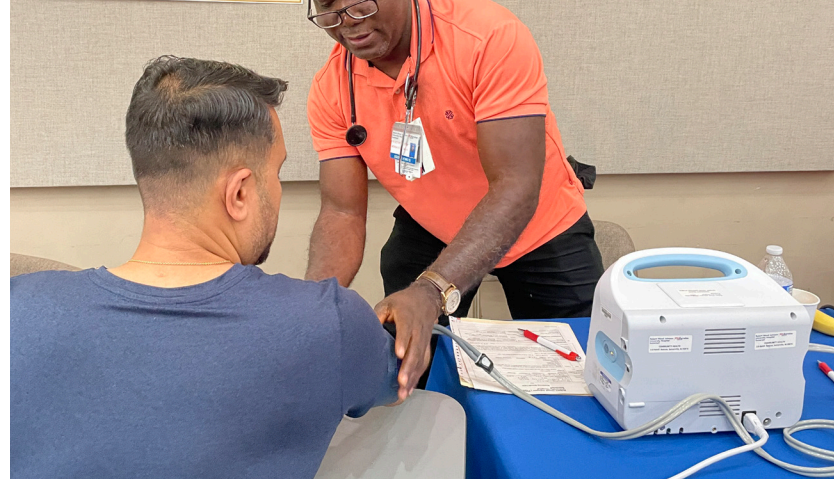
Cardiac Athletic Screenings Safeguard Teens

In 2023, RWJUH Somerset offered free cardiac athletic screenings for 59 student athletes ages 14 to 18 in the hospital's Cardiac Diagnostic Testing Department, with two teens referred to a cardiologist for additional testing. Cardiologists, technicians and 13 nurses conducted the screenings, which help detect underlying heart disorders that can trigger sudden cardiac arrest. Over the past 14 years, the hospital has provided these screenings for nearly 1,200 young athletes.

Indian Health Camp Screening Fair

RWJUH Somerset was a supporting organization for the Health Camp of New Jersey in collaboration with Sri Venkateswara Temple & Community Center in Bridgewater. The event was attended by more than 500 people. Eleven RWJUH Somerset nurses along with physicians and other team members participated in the event, which provided a range of free health screenings for people ages 40 and older who were uninsured or underinsured.

10:30 AM	Registration Table Setup, Food Bank Setup, Adult Monitoring Setup
11:00 AM	Campers Sign In
11:30 AM	Physician/Injury Assessment (30 Minutes)
12:00 PM	Breakfast Setup by Food Committee
12:30 PM	Yoga Members help campers prepare for Yoga
1:00 PM	Yoga
1:30 PM	Head Counselor - Unlocks Campers for Breakfast
2:00 PM	Cleanup after breakfast by District Committees
2:30 PM	Campers regroup in the main hall Setup by Lecture Committee
3:00 PM	Lecture (30 Minutes)
3:30 PM	Monday Through Wed (30-45 - In-school)
4:00 PM	Includes stretch and activity
4:30 PM	William (30 Minutes) (No Monkeys on Tuesday)
5:00 PM	Event Center activities (Phone presentation/quiz)
5:30 PM	Breakdown by Food Committee
6:00 PM	Breakdown by Lecture Committee
6:30 PM	Breakdown by Yoga Committee
7:00 PM	Breakdown by District Committees
7:30 PM	Breakdown by Lecture Committee
8:00 PM	Breakdown by Yoga Committee
8:30 PM	Breakdown by District Committees
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2:00 AM	Breakdown by Yoga Committee
2:30 AM	Breakdown by District Committees
3:00 AM	Breakdown by Lecture Committee
3:30 AM	Breakdown by Yoga Committee
4:00 AM	Breakdown by District Committees
4:30 AM	Breakdown by Lecture Committee
5:00 PM	End of the Day - Counselor Briefing



RWJUH Somerset nurses were also involved in the following outreach activities in 2023:

Joselyn Accetta, BSN, RN
Kenya Allen, BSN, RN, RNC-LRNN
Ma. Arlene Azores, MSN, RN, RNC-LRNN
Sheila Castro, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN
Urenna Colaire, MSN, RN
Tara Drumgool, BSN, RN, CLC
Jennifer Grosseto, BSN, RN, RNC, CLC
Rosemarie Gungon, BSN, RN
Tina Horton, MSN, RN, SCRNP, CNL
Sarah Kish, BSN, RN
Felirmin "Mimi" Lambino, BSN, RN, CCRN
Conchita Marcaro, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Mary Mickelsen, BSN, RN
Peachie Miranda, BSN, RN
Marlaina Mykytok, BSN, RN
Sharon Parrillo, BSN, RN, CIC, CPPS
Marianne Phelan, BSN, RN
Marjorie Pomerantz, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC
Kelly Sheridan, BSN, RN
Harvinder Singh, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN
Scarlett Suan, BSN, RN
Blood Pressure Screenings, Somerset County 4-H Fair, Bridgewater

Linnet Angir, BSN, RN, CCRN
Shirley Cuaresma, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Alison Hosler-Koemm, ASN, RN
Patty Kasher, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Ann Elisse Poiani, BSN, RN
Ceres Reynera, BSN, RN
Cathy Smith, BSN, RN, CAPA
Marybeth Strange, BA, RN
Christine Woolf, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Maria Yavornitzki, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Same Day Surgery RWJUH Somerset Back-to-School Supply Drive and Thanksgiving Adopt-a-Family Donation

Joan Aversa, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Tenagne Lakew, BSN, RN
Blood Pressure Screenings, Somerset County Business Partnership BizFest

Ma. Arlene Azores, MSN, RN, RNC-LRNN
Donna DeCasperis, BSN, RN
Sarah Kish, BSN, RN
Blood Pressure, Blood Glucose and Cholesterol Screenings, RWJUH Somerset

Kimberly Bates, BSN, RN, CCRN-CMC
Volunteer Pilot Tester, ICU Knowledge Assessment Tool, American Association of Critical Care Nurses

Arayna Brack, BSN, RN
Sereh Douglas, BSN, RN
Felirmin "Mimi" Lambino, BSN, RN, CCRN
Peachie Miranda, BSN, RN
Jeffery Modola, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Ogochukwu Okudo, BSN, RN
Sukhvinder Singh, ADN, RN
Blood Pressure Screenings, Indian Health Camp, Bridgewater

Sheila Castro, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN
Acela Rambaud, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Blood Pressure and Blood Glucose Screenings, Montgomery Employee Wellness Fair

Mary Cuccio, BSN, RN, RNC-OB
Eucharistic Minister, St. Pius Catholic Church, Forked River

Angela Daly, MSN, RN
Tiffany Freuler, MSN, RN, OCN
Sean Patrick Riley, MSN, RN, APN, CNL
Melissa Rivers Richardson, DNP, APN, RN, FNP-BC
Kashawna Still, BSN, RN, PCCN-K
Yesenia Zwiren, BSN, RN
Build-A-Bike® Initiative, RWJUH Somerset

Joycelyn Dimagmaliw, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Katie Edge, BSN, RN, PCCN, CCRN
Lesly Garro, BSN, RN
David Granda Carpio, BSN, RN
Kristina Giangrande, BSN, RN, CCRN
Karen Huerta, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Marta Imiolek, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Joseph Merida, BSN, RN, RN-BC
Thao Nguyen, BSN, RN, CV-BC
Eshley Pinto, BSN, RN, CV-BC
Sara Staub, BSN, RN, PCCN
Alexander Tischler, ASN, RN
Serena Varughese, BSN, RN
Cardiac Athletic Screening, RWJUH Somerset

Katie Edge, BSN, RN, PCCN, CCRN
Presenter, Health Hike: "A Walk and Talk" on Coronary Calcium Scoring, Bridgewater Commons

Jill Ferrante, BSN, RN
Volunteer, Somerset County Food Bank



Gianna Ferreiras-Moya, BSN, RN
Health Education, El Poder,
Somerset Family Practice

Jacqueline Galante, MSN, RN
Loren Herka, MSN, RN

Education, World Patient Safety Day,
RWJUH Somerset

Karen Guarino, MSN, RN, C-EFM,
RNC-OB

Volunteer, Save the Animals,
North Brunswick

Health Fair Education, Starlight Cinema,
Downtown Somerville Alliance

Rosemarie Gungon, BSN, RN

Felicia McLain, BSN, RN

Facilitator, Eating Disorders Support
Group, RWJUH Somerset

Alison Hosler-Koemm, ASN, RN

Volunteer Outreach, Immaculate
Conception Church, Somerville;
Project Linus Knitting/Crocheting
for the Pregnancy Aid Center, Annual
Appalachian Mission Trips and Hospice;
Ziti for the Needy for the Samaritan
Homeless Interim Program (SHIP);
Baby Bottle Boomerang for the
Pregnancy Aid Center; Raritan
Operation Saint Nick Gift-Giving Program

Knitting/Crocheting Volunteer,
Knit the Rainbow; #HATNOTHATE

Welda Joseph, MSN, RN, APN, A-GNP,
CDCES

Blood Glucose Screenings, Bridgewater
Senior Fair Health and Resource Fair,
Bridgewater Township Senior Center;
TD Bank Ballpark; RWJUH Somerset
Diabetes Month Event

Sarah Kish, BSN, RN

Harvinder Singh, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN

Health Education, 'Go Red' Fashion
Show, Bridgewater Commons

Sarah Kish, BSN, RN

Health Screenings, Jewish Community
Center, Bridgewater

Blood Pressure Screenings, Princeton
Justice Initiative, Manville High School

Flu Vaccine Clinic, RWJUH Somerset

Jennifer Lettieri, MSN, RN, CCRN

Laura Smith, MSN, RN, CNRN

Stroke Screening, Steeplechase
Cancer Center

Megan Madara, MSN, APN-C

Blood Pressure and Glucose Screenings,
Camp Fatima of New Jersey, Lebanon;
Indian Temple, Bridgewater

Health Education, Franklin High School
Health Careers, Somerset

Maria Novoa Besteiro, BSN, RN

Blood Pressure Screenings, St. Paul
Evangelist Lutheran Church, Raritan

Health Education, RWJUH Somerset
Share Fair, Manville

Marcella O'Herlihy, BSN, RN

Presenter, HealthHike: "A Walk and Talk"
on Joint Health, Bridgewater Commons

Marilyn Omabegho, MSN, RN, NE-BC

Health Education, Somerset County
Juneteenth, Naaman Williams Park;
Triumphant Church Health Fair, Somerset;
National Night Out, Franklin Township

Sharon Parrillo, BSN, RN, CIC, CPPS

Handwashing Education, Whiton
Elementary School, Branchburg

Health Education, Healthy Habits,
Visions and Pathways, Bridgewater

Marjorie Pomerantz, BSN, RN,
MEDSURG-BC

Participant, Lung Force Walk,
Bridgewater

Volunteer, Raritan Headwaters
Association Stream Cleanup, Bridgewater

Volunteer, Medical Equipment
Distribution, Pluckemin Medical
Equipment Ministry

Health Education, Hitting Cancer Out of
the Park, TD Bank Ballpark, Bridgewater

Theresa Powell, BSN, RN

Health Education, Jewish Community
Center Bridgewater Spring Carnival

Lenore Rubino Rogers, MSN, RN,
OCN, CHPN

RWJUH Somerset Representative,
National Night Out Against Crime,
North Plainfield

Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN,
GERO-BC, NE-BC

Prostate Cancer and Screening
Education, First Baptist Church,
Lincoln Gardens, Somerset

Volunteer, Steeplechase Distance Run,
Hillsborough

Health Education, Breast Cancer
Prevention Table, Bridgewater Commons

Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNP

Panelist, Career Breakfast,
Bound Brook High School



EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE



Exemplary Professional Practice

The true essence of a Magnet® organization stems from the nurses' exemplary professional practice. RWJUH Somerset nurses are competent, accountable, autonomous practitioners who uphold ethical, safety and regulatory standards while striving for excellence through the application of evidence-based practice. Our nurses embrace the principles of exemplary professional practice as evidenced by our professional practice model and overarching care delivery model that places the patient and family in the center of all that we do.

Rubber Duck Privacy Project

When 2-East Cardiac Pavilion clinical nurse Ashley Hernandez, ASN, RN, pictured right, was a critical care technician, she noticed that staff came into patient rooms without knowing if bed-bound patients were exposed for bathing or cleaning. This not only made patients uncomfortable, but it sometimes led to them refusing bathing. In her nursing role, Hernandez continued to see an opportunity for improvement in patient privacy scores.

“Being undressed with people you don’t know is uncomfortable, especially when the hospital setting alone can create feelings of vulnerability,” she says. “I wanted our patients to have a guarantee that we will do everything in our power to protect their privacy.”

Hernandez worked with the medical librarian to conduct research on bathing and patient satisfaction and presented her ideas on privacy enhancement to the Nursing Performance Improvement Council. She developed a privacy sign featuring a bright yellow bathing rubber duck to post on patient doors when privacy is needed, and she educated team members on its use. After implementing the initiative in late 2023, the team is now measuring the impact on patient privacy scores.

“This simple approach has provided peace of mind, built trust and conveyed to patients that we’re here for them in all aspects of their care,” adds Hernandez.



Recognizing Post-Birth Warning Signs

In a performance improvement project designed to increase awareness of the potential complications that women should watch for after childbirth, Labor and Delivery clinical nurse Mary Cuccio, BSN, RN, RNC-OB, instituted the use of a script and poster with consistent language that nurses could use for patient education.

Cuccio knew that the Association of Women’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) had recognized an issue with nurses using different words and communication styles to provide discharge education, and they interviewed patients and nurses to determine if this was the case at RWJUH Somerset. Learning that it was, they secured permission to adapt and implement an evidence-based tool that AWHONN developed to address this issue. From the time of admission through Labor and Delivery and Mother/Baby stays, nurses now provide consistent information to patients using a script and poster in English and Spanish. The initiative was also promoted during RWJUH Somerset’s Skills Day.

“Patients appreciate knowing when to seek help for a serious symptom, and this information definitely saves lives,” says Karen Guarino, MSN, RN, C-EFM, RNC-OB, director of Perinatal Services, pictured third from left.

“Quite a few patients sought care for pre-eclampsia based on the more comprehensive, consistent education being provided,” adds Cuccio. “It’s great to know that this initiative is making a difference.”

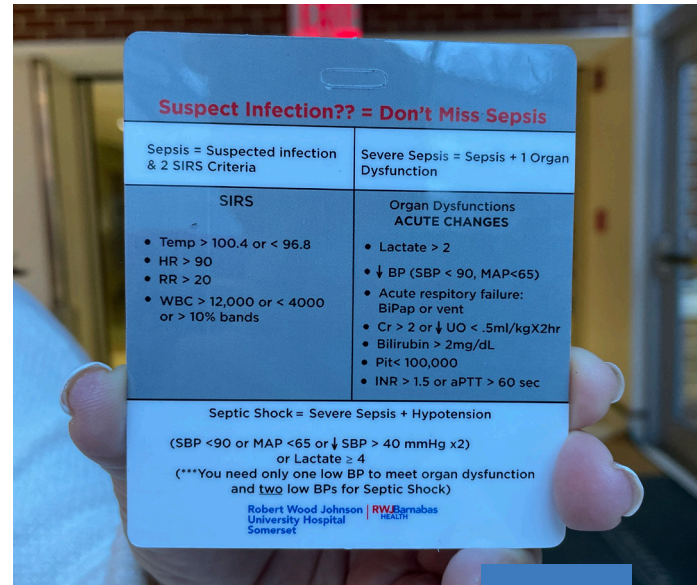


Sepsis Education Improves Compliance

Early recognition and treatment of sepsis are vital, as it's the leading cause of hospital mortality and readmissions. The Sepsis Committee at RWJUH Somerset meets monthly to discuss ongoing opportunities for compliance improvement. Recent bundle compliance data is also shared with the team. As part of these efforts, performance improvement coordinator Wilma Aquino, MSN, RN, CPAN, led a hospital-wide education initiative to increase awareness of one-hour, three-hour and six-hour sepsis compliance bundles, with the last two monitored by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

The initiative included the development and distribution of more than 600 sepsis “badge buddies” so that key clinical criteria can be immediately accessed on staff ID badges. Aquino also presented the information at various staff and committee meetings and met individually with nurses and providers to reiterate the importance of sepsis awareness. In addition, health care providers on the Sepsis Committee helped increase awareness among hospitalists and other providers. They were also invited to participate in the sepsis monthly meeting discussions. Since these efforts, sepsis bundle compliance has been sustained and a significant decrease in sepsis mortality rate was evident beyond the goal set by RWJBH.

“The CMS sepsis metrics are multifaceted and complex, so education refreshers and easily accessible information can lead to earlier recognition of sepsis,” says Aquino. “Improved compliance with these protocols significantly improves patient safety and leads to more positive patient outcomes.”



Infection Prevention Quality Improvements

Through evidence-based infection prevention measures and continued reinforcement of best practices, RWJUH Somerset nurses and staff made great strides in maintaining and improving quality indicators in 2023. In particular:



- RWJUH Somerset achieved a hospital-wide hand hygiene compliance rate of 97.8% and a nursing compliance rate of 97.3%, an improvement over already strong scores from the prior year.
- Surgical site infection rates for hip and knee replacement procedures improved from 0.61 in 2022 to 0.16 in 2023 and colon rates were zero, demonstrating a remarkable level of attention to detail by the perioperative and surgical teams.
- RWJBH hospitals partnered with Vizient, a quality improvement company, to focus on additional measures to improve specific quality indicators. Through these efforts and related nurse-driven initiatives, the hospital-acquired Clostridioides difficile (C. diff) infection rate decreased from 0.45 in 2022 to 0.13 in 2023, a 70% decrease. In addition, the central line-associated bloodstream infection (CLABSI) rate dropped from 1.70 in 2022 to 0.64 in 2023, a 62% decrease.

“Our team has been fully engaged in infection prevention for a long time, and that tone is set as soon as they walk in the door,” says Sharon Parrillo, BSN, RN, CIC, CPPS, director of Infection Prevention, pictured left with Wilma Aquino, MSN, RN, CPAN, Performance Improvement Coordinator and Gail Morchel, BSN, RN, CIC, CPPS, COHN-S, Infection Preventionist. “We’re very proud of this commitment and the tremendous performance to ensure patient safety.”

RWJUH Somerset Awards and Recognitions

The following national awards and recognitions mark the dedication and efforts of the entire RWJUH Somerset team – including nurses throughout the hospital – in maintaining a strong focus on patient safety and quality.



Hospital-Wide Recognitions

RWJUH Somerset was recognized by Becker's Hospital Review as one of 153 Great Community Hospitals in the nation. In addition, the hospital earned 2023 "Most Wired" recognition from the College of Healthcare Information Management (CHIME), scoring an Acute Level 9 on 1-10 scale.

Healthgrades Quality Achievements

Healthgrades recognized RWJUH Somerset with the following specialty designations:

- Designated America's 100 Best for gastrointestinal care, critical care, gastrointestinal surgery and coronary intervention; these awards honor hospitals ranked in the top 2% nationwide in these specialty areas
- Ranked fourth in New Jersey and among the top 10% in the nation for cardiology and gastrointestinal care
- Received Specialty Excellence Awards for coronary intervention, stroke care, gastrointestinal care, gastrointestinal surgery and critical care, ranking in the top 5% in the nation
- Received the Neurosciences and Pulmonary Care Excellence Awards, ranking in the top 10% in the nation
- Rated 5 Stars for hip replacement surgery; one of only two hospitals in New Jersey to earn this distinction
- Rated 5 Stars for vaginal deliveries for the third consecutive year and C-section deliveries for the eighth consecutive year

U.S. News & World Report Ratings

In *U.S. News & World Report's* 2023-2024 Best Hospitals rankings and ratings, RWJUH Somerset was rated "high performing" in maternity care and stroke care. These ratings indicate performance well above average on a range of quality measures.



Certifications and Accreditations

RWJUH Somerset received Advanced Primary Stroke Center Certification by the Joint Commission and retained accreditation as a Center of Excellence in Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery by the Surgical Review Corporation. The Sanofi US Breast Cancer Program also received full three-year reaccreditation from the National Accreditation Program for Breast Centers (NAPBC), a quality program of the American College of Surgeons.

In addition, the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing (BCEN), the benchmark for nursing specialty certification across the emergency spectrum, presented RWJBH Emergency Departments with the 2023 BCEN National Certification Champion Award for a healthcare system.

Professional Nursing Certifications

Congratulations to the following nurses for achieving certifications in their specialties in 2023:

Carol DiCosmo, MSN, RN, RNC-OB, C-EFM, C-ONQS, Registered Nurse Certified-Inpatient Obstetric Nursing

Caralyn Disalvi, ASN, RN, OCN, Oncology-Certified Nurse

Taylor Kohlhepp, MSN, RN, SCRNP, CNL, Stroke-Certified Registered Nurse

Kathleen Makiw, BSN, RN, RNC-MNN, Registered Nurse Certified-Maternal Newborn Nursing

Vivian Sarmiento, MSN, RN, APN, FNP-C, SCRNP, Family Nurse Practitioner-Certified

Aneta Stepien, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification

Brittany Vojir, BSN, RN, CEN, Certified Emergency Nurse

Professional Appointments

Congratulations on these professional appointments:

Kathy Easter, MSN, RN, CCRN, Board of Directors/Treasurer, New Jersey Council of Magnet Organization (NJCOMO)

Marjorie Pomerantz, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC, Board of Directors, Pluckemin Presbyterian Church Missions Committee; Church Liaison to CrossRoads4Hope

Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC, Oncology Nursing Certification Corporation (ONCC) Board of Directors; ONS North Central Jersey Chapter President

Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNP, Board Member, Somerville Branchburg Youth Football and Cheer Program

Educational Achievements

Congratulations to the following nurses who earned degrees in 2023:

BSN Degrees

Kenya Allen, BSN, RN, RNC-LRNN,
Kean University

Janet Brooks, BSN, RN,
Jersey City University

Karen Cherkas, BSN, RN,
Rutgers University

Patricia Foote, BSN, RN,
Chamberlain University

Diana Ni, BSN, RN,
Chamberlain University

Aneta Stepien, BSN, RN, MEDSURG-BC,
Grand Canyon University

MSN Degrees

Urenna Colaie, MSN, RN,
Capella University

Kaitlyn Gray, MSN, RN, RN-BC,
Chamberlain University

Jennifer Lettieri, MSN, RN, CCRN,
Thomas Edison State University

Vivian Sarmiento, MSN, RN, APN, FNP-C, SCRNP,
Chamberlain University

Laura Smith, MSN, RN, CNRN,
Southern New Hampshire University

Brittany Trstensky, MSN, RN, CCRN,
University of South Alabama

NEW KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS



New Knowledge, Innovations and Improvements

RWJUH Somerset promotes a research-intensive environment and a culture of inquiry and innovation. Nurses at all levels participate in the Nursing Research Council, monthly Journal Club meetings and Nursing Informatics end-user teams to collaborate, plan, implement and evaluate practices, knowledge and innovations new to the organization.



Additional Robotic Surgical Technology

RWJUH Somerset has expanded robotic surgery capabilities and increased the efficiency of minimally invasive surgery with the addition of a second da Vinci Xi robotic surgery system. Robotic surgeries offered at RWJUH Somerset include general, urologic, gynecologic and gender affirmation surgeries. The hospital first introduced robotic surgery in 2010, becoming one of the few community hospitals in New Jersey to offer this advanced technology.

Nurses and other interdisciplinary surgical team members are trained and proficient in robotic surgery cases through various continuing education opportunities. Robotic training has been incorporated into the orientation process and the Periop 101 Program, which teaches registered nurses to become OR nurses through a structured 25-module curriculum.

With the additional technology, the surgical team can accommodate two simultaneous robotic cases, decreasing patient wait times for surgery. The technology has increased the number of robotic surgeries performed during 2023 and attracted new surgeons to the medical and dental staff.

“Adding a second robot has opened the doors for more patients to benefit from this technology, which facilitates a faster recovery with reduced pain, less blood loss and minimal or no postoperative complications,” says Sunitha John, MSN, RN, RM, CNOR, director of Perioperative Services. “We’re proud to have the tools and expertise to deliver superior outcomes for our patients.”

Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory Renovation

RWJUH Somerset completed the final phase of a five-year cardiology services expansion project with the renovation of its Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory. Upgrades included the addition of eight spacious, private bed bays where patients prepare for and recover from their procedures, an isolation patient room and updated interior design finishes. Nurses provided insight into the design and workflow of the lab, which offers procedures such as emergency and elective coronary angioplasty, cardiac catheterization and pacemaker implantations.

“With renovations now complete across our Cardiology Pavilions, the Cardiac Diagnostic Testing Department and the Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory, we’re able to offer the latest technologies for diagnosis and treatment, enhanced comfort and convenience for patients and improved efficiency for staff,” says Kathleen Edge, BSN, RN, CCRN, PCCN, director of Cardiovascular Services, Endoscopy and Special Procedures.

Expanded Medical Oncology Services

The Steeplechase Cancer Center at RWJUH Somerset opened a newly renovated outpatient office suite to expand medical oncology and infusion services, enhance the patient experience and position the center for continued growth. The renovated space focuses on patient comfort and convenience by increasing the size and number of exam rooms and doubling the size of the waiting room to ensure better patient flow. Infusion capacity for services such as chemotherapy and immunotherapy has also doubled, and the office features a dedicated space for patients who are receiving scalp cooling therapy to help prevent hair loss.

“Our nurses and interdisciplinary team members helped us design this space with optimized patient care in mind,” says Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC, assistant vice president of Oncology Services. “In fact, nurses were involved in every aspect of the workflow to help streamline services and better meet the needs of our community.”



RWJUH Somerset Nurses Disseminate New Knowledge in 2023

Publications

Kimberly Bates, BSN, RN, CCRN-CMC

Buckley MS, Acquisto NM, Adams C, et al. Critical care pharmacy practice advancement recommendations on direct patient care activities: An opinion of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy Critical Care Practice and Research Network, *Journal of the American College of Clinical Pharmacy*. 2023; (6)8.

Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC

O'Leary J, Scheper K, Donnelly T, et al. A randomized control trial evaluating cryotherapy to prevent peripheral neuropathy in patients receiving paclitaxel. *Oncology Nursing Forum*. 2023;50(2):34.

Nursing Research Studies

Staff	Title of Presentation
Jazmin Cruz, MSN, RN, RN-BC (principal investigator) Emily Althamer, MSN, RN, RN-BC Angela Daly, MSN, RN Matthew Salvent, BSN, RN Marcella O'Herlihy, BSN, RN Helene Pasteur, BSPH, BSN, RN, RN-CSA Cesar Torres Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNL	Exploring the Impact of Boxed Breathing on Anxiety and Pain in Total Hip Replacement (THR) and Total Knee Replacement (TKR) Patients on the Orthopedic Unit
Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNL (site principal investigator) Mary Beth Russell, PhD, MA, RN, NPD-BC, NEA-BC, FNAP Nancy Holecek, MAS, MHA, BSN, RN	The Impact of a Multimodal Education Program on Improving System-Wide CAUTI Rates
Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNL (principal investigator) Nellie Sun MSN, RN, CEN Kimberly Bates, BSN, RN, CCRN-CMC Maria de Roma-Ragaza, MSN, RN, CNOR Kaitlyn Kwasnik, BSN, RN, RN-BC	Exploring Coping Strategies Used by Registered Nurses Working in a Community Medical Center During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Kathleen Wilson, MSN, RN, CNL, SCRNL (principal investigator) Michael Valendo, DNP, RN, NE-BC, CEN Jamie Perry, MSN, RN, NE-BC Jazmin Cruz, MSN, RN, RN-BC Ryan Norman, MI, AHIP	Exploring the Impact of Expanded Nurse Manager Coverage on Job Satisfaction for Nurses and their Perception of Leader Support and Engagement

Internal Poster Presentations		
Staff	Title of Presentation	Venue
Kenya Allen, BSN, RN, RNC-LRNN	Newborn Hypoglycemia	RWJUH Somerset OB Skills Day
Ma. Arlene Azores, MSN, RN, RNC-LRNN	Setting Up OR Delivery	RWJUH Somerset MCH Skills Day
Mary Cuccio, BSN, RN, RNC-OB	Postpartum Warning Signs	RWJUH Somerset OB Skills Day
Lisa DeSai, BSN, RN	Post-Partum Hemorrhage	RWJUH Somerset OB Skills Day
Marieta Jones, MSN, RN, RNC-OB	Shoulder Dystocia	RWJUH Somerset OB Skills Day
Bernadette Tomale, BSN, RN, RNC-LRNN	Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome (Drug Withdrawal)	RWJUH Somerset OB Skills Day

Internal Podium/Virtual Presentations		
Staff	Title of Presentation	Venue
Sheryl Ciccarelli, MSN, RN, APN, ANP-BC	Palliative Care	RWJUH Somerset Advanced Practice Provider Skills Day; ED Advanced Practice Provider Bootcamp; Grand Rounds
Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC	Management of Chemotherapy Induced Peripheral Neuropathy	Steeplechase Cancer Center Survivorship Series Hybrid Event



External Poster Presentations		
Staff	Title of Presentation	Venue
Kimberly Cromwell-Piniella, BSN, RN, CBCN, OCN	Pre-Operative Education to Improve Understanding and Reduce Anxiety in the Breast Cancer Patient It's a Pink Party, Education on Breast Health	RWJBH Quality Fair, Edison
Kathy Easter, MSN, RN, CCRN	Shifting the Paradigm: Implementing Shared Decision-Making	Magnet4Europe Conference, Oslo, Norway
Tiffany Gagliardo, MSN, RN, OCN Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC	Standardized Education to Increase Completion Rates of Patients Receiving Scalp Cooling Treatment	RWJBH Quality Fair, Edison
Jennifer Lettieri, MSN, RN, CCRN	4W Commonly Prescribed Medication Side Effects Pamphlet	RWJBH Quality Fair, Edison
Conchita Macaro, BSN, RN, CCRN Felirmin 'Mimi' Lambino, BS, RN, CCRN	Improving Patient Flow in the Post Anesthesia Care Unit (PACU)	RWJBH Quality Fair, Edison
Matthew Salvent, BSN, RN	Exploring the Impact of Boxed Breathing on Anxiety and Pain in Total Hip Replacement (THR) and Total Knee Replacement (TKR) Patients on the Orthopedic Unit	National Association of Orthopedic Nurses (NAON) Conference, Pittsburgh
Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC	A Randomized Control Trial Evaluating Cryotherapy to Prevent Peripheral Neuropathy in Patients Receiving Paclitaxel	Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Congress, Texas



External Podium/Virtual Presentations		
Staff	Title of Presentation	Venue
Kathy Easter, MSN, RN, CCRN	Developing a Culture of Inquiry to Support a Research-Intensive Environment	Magnet4Europe Conference, Oslo, Norway
Jennifer Grosseto, BSN, RN, RNC, CLC	Breastfeeding Basics: The Benefits for Mom and Baby	RWJUH Somerset Virtual Presentation
Gail Morchel, BSN, RN, CIC, CPPS, COHN-S	CAUTI Prevention	Mercer County Community College; New Jersey Hospital Association
Sean Patrick Riley, MSN, RN, APN, CNL	LGBTQ+ Sensitivity in Healthcare A Conversation with LGBTQ+ Healthcare Providers NJ Hospitals Expand LGBTQ Healthcare LGBTQ Community Support Meeting Discussion on HRT	Embracing the LGBTQ+ Community: A Symposium of Inclusion & Understanding, The Palace at Somerset Park Northjersey.com PROUD Center at Community Medical Center
Laura Smith, MSN, RN, CNRN	Stroke Education Stroke Signs and Symptoms and Neuroscience Nursing Careers	Care One Somerset Valley Franklin High School Neuroscience Club
Laura Smith, MSN, RN, CNRN Jennifer Lettieri, MSN, RN, CCRN	Tuesday Talks on Strokes Community Health Stroke Awareness Program Stroke Education BEFAST and Risk Factors	Iris House Somerville Elks Bridgewater Senior Health & Resource Fair
Kerstin Scheper, DNP, RN, OCN, GERO-BC, NE-BC	Episode 254: Oncology Nursing Certification Affects the Entire Cancer Care System New Era of Lung Cancer Diagnoses	Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) Podcast Virtual Grand Rounds

