

# 2025 Nursing Annual Report



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# A MESSAGE FROM

***Pam Johnson-Carlson, DNP, RN, NE-BC,  
Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services  
& Chief Nursing Officer***



## **To Our Incredible Nursing Team,**

As Chief Nursing Officer, it is an honor to celebrate the remarkable achievements of our nursing community this year. Your compassion, expertise and unwavering commitment to excellence continue to inspire me. You bring our mission to life with every interaction, creating healing experiences grounded in professionalism, partnership and a true spirit of service.

This year we reached extraordinary milestones with our Magnet Fifth Re-Designation with Distinction. This recognition reflects exemplary professional practice, transformational leadership, structural empowerment and the advancement of new knowledge, innovations and improvements. It affirms the strength and consistency of your practice and the depth of your collective commitment to excellence.

We also earned our PTAP Accreditation with Distinction designation, a powerful validation of the supportive environment you create for nurses as they grow into confident and capable practitioners. This honor reflects your dedication to mentorship, learning and building a foundation that strengthens our future nursing workforce.

It is important to pause and fully recognize what these accomplishments represent. Earning even one designation with distinction is rare. Achieving both in the same year places our nursing community among only a small number of organizations nationwide who reach this level of excellence. This is not simply a reflection of strong performance. It is a reflection of a culture that prioritizes collaboration, innovation, shared purpose and an unwavering focus on the highest standards of care. It is extraordinary.

The 2025 Nursing Annual Report honors these achievements and reflects the courage, compassion, expertise and professional commitment to our profession and our patients. You continue to inspire hope, lead with heart and shape a healthier future for children and families.

Thank you for all you give. It is a privilege to serve alongside you, and I am profoundly proud of the extraordinary nurse you are.

With gratitude for all you do,



Pam Johnson-Carlson, DNP, RN, NE-BC  
Senior Vice President of Patient Care Services  
and Chief Nursing Officer

# 2025 ACCREDITATION ACCOMPLISHMENTS



## Magnet with Distinction

Children's Nebraska is proud to celebrate another extraordinary milestone — earning Magnet® recognition from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) for the fifth consecutive time! This year's achievement is even more remarkable with the honor of Magnet® with Distinction, a prestigious honor reserved for the highest-performing Magnet® organizations in the nation and a powerful testament to our nursing excellence. Fewer than 70 hospitals in the United States and only six pediatric-specific organizations have earned this elite recognition.

The ANCC Magnet Recognition Program® is the most prestigious credential a healthcare organization can receive for nursing excellence and quality patient outcomes. Magnet® with Distinction, introduced in 2023, raises the bar further by recognizing organizations that exceed Magnet® scoring thresholds and demonstrate exceptional performance in nursing excellence, innovation and outcomes.

“Achieving Magnet® with Distinction is a historic milestone and among the highest honors in nursing,” said Pam Johnson-Carlson, DNP, RN, NE-BC, senior vice president and chief nursing officer at Children's. “This achievement reflects the unwavering dedication of our nurses and nurse practitioners, whose leadership, engagement and compassion elevate the care we deliver every day.”

Children's was also recognized with 12 exemplar categories — a testament to the organization's leadership in quality, patient experience and nurse engagement, and its role as a national model for nursing excellence.



## Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP): Nurse Residency Program

The Nurse Residency Program at Children’s Nebraska was awarded in February 2025 accreditation with distinction as a Practice Transition Accreditation Program (PTAP) by the American Nurses Credentialing Center’s (ANCC) Commission on Accreditation in Practice Transition programs – the highest recognition awarded by ANCC’s accreditation program.

The ANCC Practice Transition Accreditation Program sets the global standard for residency and fellowship programs that demonstrate excellence in transitioning nurses to new practice settings.

“Earning PTAP accreditation with distinction reflects our strong commitment to helping new graduate nurses develop their skills in providing excellent patient care, reinforcing Children’s dedication to our People First pillar of Learning and Growth,” said Annette Schnell, MSN, APRN-PCNS-BC, CPN, NPD-BC, manager of Clinical Education and Nurse Residency program director.



*Left to Right: Mellisa Renter, Monica Schneider, Janae McMahon, Amy Phillips, Kari Tibke, Sara Matthews, Annette Schnell, Cassie Pedersen, Abby Handrich, Liz Morse, Ashley Thompson, Kelsie McManus, Judy Timmons, Pam Johnson-Carlson*

**126** Nurse Residents newly onboarded  
**90.5%** First Year Retention Rate



*Nurse Resident graduates of June 2025*

## Level 1 Pediatric Trauma Center Verification

Children’s Nebraska was officially verified as a Level I Pediatric Trauma Center by the American College of Surgeons (ACS). This distinguished achievement designates Children’s as the first and only center of this kind in Nebraska. The Level I Pediatric Trauma Center verification is the highest status for trauma care and represents the culmination of years of unwavering dedication, strategic planning and profound commitment from every corner of our organization.

**948** Trauma patients in 2025  
(5.45% increase from 2024)

**1,719** Trauma hospital days in 2025  
(28% increase from 2024)



Left to Right: Allison Flynn, Jill Huskey, Kristen Foster, Travis Hedlund, Jessica Lee, Kaela Thompson, Sherrie Chester, Kylie Scallon, Patrick Thomas

## Pediatric Trauma Society Podcast

The Pediatric Trauma Society (PTS) is a professional organization to optimize pediatric trauma care from prevention to recovery, with a vision to unite global leaders in pediatric trauma. The PTS Podcast was started in 2025, in collaboration with Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator from Children’s Nebraska. The purpose of this podcast is to host engaging discussions on the latest guidelines, helpful tools, current research and trending topics in the field. Six episodes aired in 2025.



You can listen to podcast episodes on any app that has podcasts, search Pediatric Trauma Society.



Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator, **won Best Quality Improvement Article Award** at the Pediatric Trauma Society Conference & published in the *Journal of Trauma Nursing*.



Jessica Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, Trauma and Children’s Surgery Program Director Surgical Services, Board Member of Nebraska State Trauma Board from 2020–2026, **appointed Pediatric Trauma Society President-Elect** from 2025–2026

# TRANSFORMATIONAL LEADERSHIP



## New Behavioral Health & Wellness Center

In 2025, 39 RNs and APRNs were hired and onboarded in planning for the opening of the new Behavioral Health & Wellness Center at Children's Nebraska in 2026. Of the 39 RNs and APRNs hired, 14 were internal transfers in alignment with professional career goals.

A transfer to highlight is Austin Derby, MBA, BSN, RN, CPN, CNML, CPSS. Austin started as a Certified Nursing Assistant 13 years ago at Children's Nebraska and was promoted to a Staff RN, then nurse clinical supervisor and he is now the Nurse Manager of Behavioral Health Nursing. Tara Dorsey, BSN, RN, and Kadiy Thomas, MA, BSN, RN, were also promoted as Clinical Nurse Supervisors transitioning to the Behavioral Health and Wellness Center in 2025, showcasing diverse career advancement and support to grow professionally.

## Wellbeing & Work Life Balance

### Nursing Schedule Enhancements

- Lifestyle Scheduling for Nurses & APRNs
- Weekend Program
- Every 4th Weekend
- 8-Week Schedules

### Nurse Peer Thrive Supporters

- 38 new nurse peer supporters trained in 2025

### Zen Den Expansions

- Introduced new massage chairs to all locations, including areas that did not previously have one
- New Zen Dens were added to 6 Med Surg, 4 Med Surg and Transport
- Partnered with Operations & Practice Councils (OPCs) to decorate the rooms and enhance a calming, restorative environment

2025 was the first year we saw a decrease in the number of nurses leave Children's due to their schedule.

**12%** 2024    **8%** 2025

## Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP) Professional Exchange

In February 2025, leaders and frontline staff from the NICU and PICU participated in a professional exchange with the Children’s Hospital of Philadelphia (CHOP). During this exchange, the team visited CHOP’s main campus as well as the King of Prussia hospital, which closely mirrors the design and scope of our new Hubbard Tower. Participants learned about the functions of various units and support services, observed shared governance meetings, toured CHOP’s mission control center, shadowed frontline staff and leaders and met with quality and safety leadership. The exchange generated several key learnings that participants brought back to share with their respective teams.



Collectively, participants identified a role they unanimously agreed was essential for our organization. At CHOP, this role is known as the Safety Quality Specialist. Upon returning, the team prioritized establishing a similar position at Children’s Nebraska, adapting the role to reflect our organizational priorities by incorporating patient experience. As noted by our Chief Nursing Officer, optimal patient experience cannot be achieved without strong patient outcomes.

The team worked efficiently to develop a comprehensive job description that integrated quality, safety and patient experience responsibilities, resulting in the creation of the Quality Safety Patient Experience (QSPX) Leader role. To ensure a strong understanding of frontline nursing workflows, the position requires one bedside shift per pay period. This requirement was intentionally designed to ensure role incumbents maintain firsthand insight into bedside practice and are able to identify and address barriers to care effectively.

A model was developed to launch the new role across the hospital. All seven positions were hired internally and for the areas of Med/Surg, Hem/Onc, NICU, PICU, Surgical Services, ED and CCU by the end of May. QSPX Leaders were then onboarded together as a cohort in June.

During the first six months of role implementation, multiple initiatives have been completed or are currently underway. A Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA) was conducted in collaboration with Pharmacy and the Quality and Safety teams to address medication wastage. Quality boards were established and standardized to enhance staff transparency regarding patient outcomes, patient experience metrics and unit-specific goals. Additionally, the cohort has completed a range of training and educational activities focused on quality improvement, patient safety and the patient experience.



*The new Quality, Safety and Patient Experience Leaders, June 2025: Kylie Grant, BSN, RN, CPN, CLC, Alex Everitt, BSN, RN, Cassidy Espeseth, BSN, RN, CPN, Lindsay Taylor, BSN, RN, C-ONQS, Kinsley Welstead, MSN, RN, CCRN, Maria Fitch, BSN, RN, Amy Cheney, BSN, RN, RNC-NIC*

## New Creighton Accelerated Bachelor of Science (ABSN) Sponsorship Program

Children’s Nebraska welcomed students in the newly established Creighton Accelerated Bachelor of Science in Nursing (ABSN) Sponsorship program. The first cohort included eight students, with four being internal Children’s Nebraska team members including Lauren Ackerman, Ultrasonographer, Hailey Olson, ED Paramedic, Abby Osborn, Inpatient HemOnc Unit CNA and Kole McKinnon, OR Surgical Technologist II. The event marked the beginning of an exciting journey to grow and strengthen our nursing workforce. Over the next two and a half years, the Creighton ABSN Sponsorship program will produce 40 highly-trained nurses, each prepared to provide exceptional care to our patients and families. This groundbreaking program is made possible through a generous gift from the Ryan Foundation.

### 2025 Emerging Leaders Participants

The Emerging Leader program enables team members not currently in a formal leadership role to grow into future leaders by offering meaningful development experiences that build the skills needed for leadership positions. Eight nurses from various areas of nursing participated in the 2025 cohort, with their projects they completed listed below.

- Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN, Trauma Program Coordinator – Trauma. Project Title: *Enhancing Internal Mobility for Career Enhancement*
- Lindsay Pottoff, BSN, RN, Staff RN – CP Kearney. Project Title: *Patient Experience and Engagement: Boredom Buster*
- Katie Niemoller, MSN, MBA, RN, NI-BC, CPEN, PMP, Supervisor Clinical Systems – Information Technology. Project Title: *Using Epic Tools to Improve Quality Metrics and Patient Care in Emergency Department*
- Kirsty Eden, MSN, RN, CPN, Clinic RN – Allergy. Project Title: *Improving Medication Scanning Compliance in the Allergy Clinic*
- Sara Stephens, RN, CPN, Staff RN Bedside – Centralized Radiology Nursing. Project Title: *Radiology Nursing Orientation Enhancement*
- Garrett Higgins, BSN, RN, Staff RN Bedside – Operating Room. Project Title: *Role Clarity in the OR*
- Lisa Darwin, DNP, APRN, CPNP-AC/PC, Nurse Practitioner – Critical Care Pediatrics. Project Title: *Cultural Alignment & Engagement Analysis*
- Keely Envick, BSW, BSN, RN, CPN, CPST, Clinic RN – Dermatology. Project Title: *Nitrous Oxide Use in Outpatient Dermatology*

### Honoring Anisa Hoie’s Nursing Legacy

Anisa Hoie, BSN, RN, a dedicated pediatric hematology-oncology nurse at Children’s Nebraska for nearly four decades, formed a profound connection with the O’Neal family while caring for their vibrant young daughter, Aiden. Although Aiden tragically passed away from her illness, Anisa remained a steadfast pillar of support for the family, guiding them through their hardest moments and maintaining a close relationship for years. Aiden’s parents, Sarah and Robert, deeply appreciated Anisa’s comforting nature and her unique ability to ease the frightening aspects of cancer treatment, noting that she was Aiden’s favorite person in the hospital.



Sarah O’Neal, Anisa Hoie, BSN, RN, Robert O’Neal

To honor Anisa’s extraordinary impact and the vital commitment of all oncology nurses, the O’Neal family established a perpetual endowment fund in her name. This meaningful gift is specifically designed to finance professional advancement and educational opportunities for pediatric oncology nurses. By investing in the continued education of these essential caregivers, the endowment recognizes nursing as a true vocation and ensures that future families facing pediatric cancer will benefit from the same compassionate, high-level support that Anisa provided to Aiden.

## Healthy Work Environment National Collaboratives with the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN)

Children’s Nebraska is an active participant in the American Association of Critical Care Nurses (AACN) *Healthy Work Environment (HWE) National Collaborative*. This is a two-year project, focused on hospital-based education, mentorship, and co-learning with other organizations and internal team collaboration. **There are 45 hospitals participating**, representing 26 states, with 11 hospitals identifying as Pediatric facilities. Hospitals are from urban to rural, teaching, and non-teaching, system affiliated to stand alone, very large organizations to smaller ones. With the financial support from the Chief Nursing Officer (CNO) Endowment funds, Children’s was able to apply and participate.

Children’s Nebraska selected the ED, PICU & 6 Med/Surg as the units of focus and interprofessional collaboration. The units selected shared patients across the continuum of care and needed to be involved in healthy work environment action plans incorporating the six AACN pillars of a HWE. Each unit selected a specific project aligned with one of the below AACN HWE pillars.

- |                              |                           |
|------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Skilled Communication     | 4. Appropriate Staffing   |
| 2. True Collaboration        | 5. Meaningful Recognition |
| 3. Effective Decision Making | 6. Authentic Leadership   |

The PICU and ED focused on “true collaboration” and 6 Med/Surg focused on “meaningful recognition”. All three units collectively focused on “appropriate staffing”.



In 2025, all three units saw an increase in pre- and post-survey data related to staff and provider perceptions of each AACN HWE pillar. Collaboration between our internal team members and the other 44 hospitals continue with the support of the AACN. This specific collaborative ends April 2026, and teams look forward to sharing their final outcomes.

Additional Healthy Work Environment AACN partnerships started in 2025, with financial grant support from Johnson & Johnson. Our departments involved in this initiative include OR, Home Health, Private Duty, Transport and Cardiac Care Unit (CCU). All are participating in the AACN Clinical Scene Investigator (CSI) Academy, focused on process improvement and implementation science to influence practice and create sustainable positive changes. These active team members look forward to sharing their progress!

## Project Austin National Collaborative: Expanding a Nursing-Led Model Nationwide

Building on the recognition received from the ANCC Magnet Prize, the Project Austin team at Children’s Nebraska, led by Tiffany Simon, MSN, RN, CCRN and Natalie McCawley, MSN, RN, CCRN, has focused on expanding the program nationally. The \$125,000 award supported the creation of the Project Austin National Collaborative, a nationwide initiative that equips hospitals and EMS agencies with a comprehensive, step-by-step playbook to implement the program in their own communities.



In 2025, three hospitals joined the collaborative — Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago, Dayton Children’s Hospital and Children’s Hermann Memorial Hospital — with over 50 additional hospitals expressing interest. The collaborative’s goal is to establish a nursing-led national standardized care model for children with medical complexity, guided by research, collaboration and advocacy efforts.

To support this expansion, the team developed a dedicated website, branded materials, copyrighted educational modules with medical illustrations created by James Vargo, MD, Division Chief of Plastic Surgery, and a national database in partnership with Matthew Sorensen, MD, Cardiology Physician. This infrastructure enables data-driven decision-making, scientific research and continuous improvement, ensuring that children with medical complexity receive consistent, safe and compassionate care, no matter where they live.

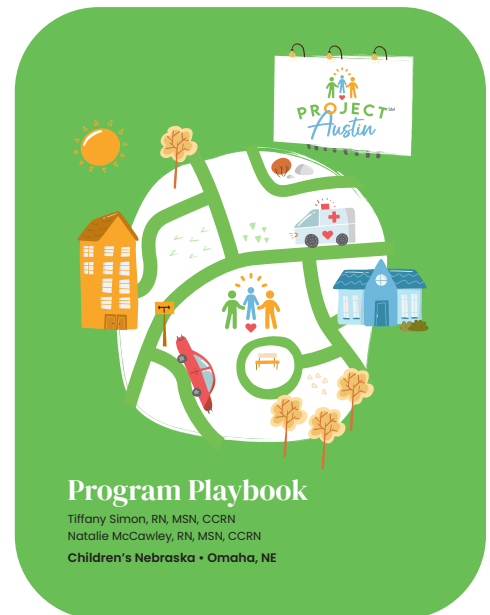
Looking ahead, Project Austin aims to continue collaborating with children’s hospitals nationwide to strengthen this network, improve outcomes for medically complex children, and support the communities and providers who care for them every day.



*Tiffany Simon, MSN, RN, CCRN, Director Care Coordination & Natalie McCawley, MSN, RN, CCRN, Manager Project Austin launching Project Austin at Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago in June 2025*



*Left to right: Pam Johnson-Carlson, Tiffany Simon, Matthew Sorensen, James Vargo, Natalie McCawley*



## Associate Chief Nursing Officer (ACNO) Role

A new ACNO role was introduced to Children’s Nebraska in 2025, focused on inpatient care services. The purpose of the role is to enhance operational efficiency, system optimization and strategic and operational oversight of inpatient services including Medical-Surgical/Hematology Oncology Units, Pediatric Intensive Care Unit, Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, Fetal Care Center, ECMO/VAT, Respiratory Therapy, Cardiac Care Unit, Catheterization Lab, Heart Transplant, Inpatient FLEX and house supervisors.



**Marcie Peterson, DNP, RN, CCRN, NEA-BC** accepted the ACNO role in January 2025, with over 26 years of nursing experience at Children’s Nebraska.

“Children’s team members are like a second family to me. Whether they are on the front line or managing a service line, I am invested in their future and do all I can to pave their way and help them develop, advocating for the essential resources they need to provide quality care to their patients,” Marcie said. “The purpose of my work is to remove barriers, ensuring our team members can focus their attention on the kids, families and team members we serve. This work has stretched me and helped me care and grow beyond what I ever imagined.”

## Advocacy in Policy

**Megan Connelly, DNP, APRN-NP, NE-BC, FACHE**, Vice President, Ambulatory Services & Community Outreach, had the opportunity to attend the American Hospital Association Annual Meeting in Washington, D.C. May, 2025. Megan joined other Nebraska hospital leaders in meetings with the federal delegation, organized by the Nebraska Hospital Association. During this time, Congress was actively debating H.R. 1, a reconciliation bill proposing significant changes to Medicaid policy.

Representing Children’s Nebraska alongside our government affairs director, Melanie Thornton, they advocated against proposed reductions to Medicaid funding. Medicaid serves as the foundation of pediatric healthcare both nationally and in Nebraska, with children comprising nearly 50% of all enrollees. At Children’s Nebraska, our payer mix closely reflects this reality, with approximately 45% of patient visits covered by Medicaid.

They emphasized that any reductions to Medicaid funding would have a direct impact on children’s health and would hinder our ability to provide care to all patients who rely on us. It was a meaningful experience to advocate for the health and wellbeing of children, sharing firsthand insights into how policy decisions affect our patients and our organization. These discussions reinforced that our elected representatives rely on the expertise and perspectives of the healthcare providers and hospitals they serve.



*Left to right: Megan Connelly & Melanie Thornton*

# STRUCTURAL EMPOWERMENT



## 2025 BelInvolved Volunteering

The BelInvolved community volunteering program empowers team members to demonstrate kindness, care and compassion in our community, providing 8 hours of volunteer paid time off (PTO) annually.

**1,039** Total Nurse Volunteer Hours  
**191** Nurses Volunteered

BSN or Higher Degree **90%**  
 Specialty Certifications **53%**

Nurse Retention Rate **87.97%**  
 APRN Retention Rate **95.57%**

## Send Sunshine

Recognitions given from nurses  
**16,216**  
 Recognitions given to nurses  
**13,895**

**296** Nurses Hired  
**19** APRNs Hired

CNE Activities **127**  
 CNE Hours Approved **426.25**  
 Learners Served  
**3,534** Nurses  
**300** APRNs

## 2025 Team Member Engagement Survey

1,160 RNs, LPNs, APRNs completed survey (81% participation rate)

### RNs, LPNs

My team works well together.

**90.6%** Favorable

I have opportunities to apply my skills, abilities and strengths at Children's.

**91.3%** Favorable

### APRNs

I am satisfied with the teamwork and collaboration I have with APPs at Children's.

**95%** Favorable

I have opportunities to apply my skills, abilities and strengths at Children's.

**90.8%** Favorable

## Pediatric Nurses Week Celebration

Pediatric Nurses Week was planned and facilitated by Professional Governance members with support from the Robert E. Murphy foundation.

*Left to right: Neleah Wozniak, Ashley Gusman, Pam Johnson-Carlson, Gabby Hunke*



*Left to right: Jess Meyer, Taylor Fry, Cassidy McWhorter, Sydney Houser*



*Left to right: Aleasha Dryden, Sarah Vetter, Maria Middendorf, Merissa Roth, Kelsie Rolles, Lee Hulbert, Alex Herting*



*Left to right: Kim Schmidt, Sean Johnson, Heidi Schneidewind, Sara Mathews, Annette Schnell*

## A Walk in Their Shoes: PICU Physicians Experienced “A Day in the Life” of Nursing Firsthand

At Children’s Nebraska, teamwork is more than a value — it’s the foundation of patient care. To celebrate Pediatric Nurses Week, the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) launched a unique RN exchange program designed to deepen the bond between physicians and nursing staff.

Inspired by a similar initiative at Lurie Children’s Hospital, PICU physicians stepped into the role of a nurse for a few hours. Wearing custom t-shirts and trading their usual duties, doctors — including Division Chief Dr. Jayesh Thakker — performed bedside tasks like administering medication and changing diapers.

Physicians quickly learned that “simple” nursing tasks require immense skill, critical thinking and resilience. In a high-stress environment, the swap added a necessary element of fun and camaraderie, strengthening the unity of the entire team. Dr. Elizabeth Bleed noted that by experiencing the complexity of the nursing role firsthand, mutual respect shifted from an abstract concept to a tangible reality.

By walking in their colleagues’ shoes, the PICU team didn’t just gain functional knowledge; they built a culture of profound empathy. This initiative serves as a powerful reminder that when we understand each other’s challenges, we provide better care for our patients.



*Left to right: Grant Hamill, MD & Gabby Jobe, BSN, RN*



*Left to right: Megan Borg, BSN, RN, Jayesh Thakker, MD, Ali Zimmerman, BSN, RN*



*Left to right: Tyler Russell, BSN, RN, CCRN, Michael Facciolo, MD*



*Left to right: Anna Ryan, BSN, RN & Andrew Pulfer, MD*

# EXEMPLARY PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

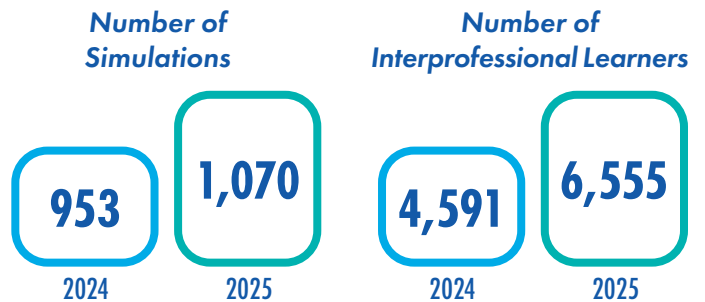


## Simulation Impact & Reach

**2,631** Simulation Education Hours  
**3,888** Orientation & Transition to Practice Hours  
**1,026** Resuscitation & Advanced Life Support Hours  
**227** Community Presence & Patient Experience

## Simulation Experiences

Providing hands-on practice to be prepared for unexpected or emergency situations is foundational to providing expert care to our patients.



Left to right: Charlotte Stuhr, Erica Anderson, Jamie Bussen, Jessi Henry, Mary Gapp



## Cumulative Results for all 2025 Quarters

### Inpatient Clinical Outcomes\*

Catheter-Associated Urinary Tract Infection  
**100%** 8/8 Units

Medical Device-Related Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPI)  
**100%** 8/8 Units

Pediatric Peripheral IV Infiltration  
**100%** 8/8 Units

Falls with Injury  
**75%** 6/8 Units

Hospital-Acquired Pressure Injuries (HAPI) Stage 2  
**87%** 7/8 Units

\* Percentage of units outperformed benchmark per Magnet standards

### Ambulatory Clinical Outcomes\*

Patient Burns  
**100%** 6/6 Units

Surgical Errors  
**100%** 6/6 Units

Falls with Injury  
**97%** 34/35 Units

\* Percentage of units outperformed benchmark per Magnet standards



### Patient Experience Outcomes\*



Nurses courteous and respectful  
**88.8%**



Comfort talking with nurses  
**87.2%**



Nurses explained things  
**86.8%**



Nurses listen carefully  
**86.8%**



Confidence and trust in nurses  
**84.9%**



Good communication between staff  
**83.1%**



Staff eased discomfort  
**81.3%**

\* Favorability rating

# NEW KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS & IMPROVEMENTS



## RN & APRN Researchers & Publishers Recognized

RNs & APRNs were celebrated and recognized for their recent publications and/or research completed. They were honored with a celebratory breakfast on October 10, 2026, and their article or research was framed as a keepsake.

Judy Timmons, MSN, APRN-CNS, NPD-BC, Director Clinical Education; Marcie Peterson, DNP, RN, CCRN, NEA-BC, Vice President & Associate Chief Nursing Officer; Amy Phillips, MSN, APRN-CNS, CCRN-K, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Trauma Performance Improvement Coordinator; Emily Rappolt, MSN, RN, CCRN, CNE, Nurse Residency Coordinator; Amanda Hinkel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC, Director Advanced Practice; Meghan Spencer, MSN, RN, CPEN, TCRN, ED Clinical Informaticist; Kim Marsh, MSN, APRN-NP, CNNP, Neonatology Nurse Practitioner; Mary Drauillard, BSN, RN, CCRN, CPN, Radiology Staff RN; Monica Schneider, MSN, RN, CPN, Clinical Education Specialist for Surgical Services; Lydia Merkel, BSN, RN, CPN, Radiology Staff RN; Jess Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, Trauma and Children's Surgery Program Director Surgical Services; Mellisa Renter, MSN, RN, CPN, Director Professional Nursing Practice & Magnet Program Director; Pam Johnson-Carlson, DNP, RN, NE-BC, Senior Vice President Patient Care Services & Chief Nursing Officer



**28**  
Evidence-Based  
Practice



**10**  
Nursing Research



**6**  
Publications



**34**  
Presentations  
(Local, Regional, National)

# AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS



**217** Nominations  
**12** Winners

**43% increase in Daisy Award nominations compared to 2024!**

- January:** Mary Swift, PICU
- February:** April Everett, PICU
- March:** Jessica Thurber, NICU
- April:** Kelsey Wright, Neurology
- May:** Brandi Wimmer, CARES
- June:** Stephanie Shoning, Children's Physicians – Bellevue
- July:** Rachel Jacobs, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology
- August:** Katie Uits, NICU
- September:** Katie Zuerlein, CARES
- October:** Heather Bednar, PICU
- November:** Delaney Schultz, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology
- December:** Ashley Butcher, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology



HONORING NURSES INTERNATIONALLY  
IN MEMORY OF J. PATRICK BARNES

**18** Nominations  
**5** Winners

- Kat Schjodt, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Hematology/Oncology
- Lee Hulbert, Clinical Manager, 6 Med/Surg
- Amy Phillips, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Quality & Research
- Jessica Perry Craft, Clinical Nurse Supervisor, Emergency Dept.
- Barbara Schwarz, Clinical Nurse Legal Liaison

## Florence Nightingale Awards

**45** Nominations  
**29** Winners

- Alex Diercks, Children's Physicians – Plattsmouth
- Brianna Hergott, NICU 6
- Carol Guinan, COSC
- Cassidy McWhorter, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology
- Eleanor Humphrey, 6 Med/Surg
- Emma Panowicz, Pulmonology
- Erin Poyner, House Supervisor
- Haley Cornelius, Children's Physicians – Bellevue
- Jaci Beauvais, Informatics
- Jamie Masters, ECMO
- Janae McMahan, Clinical Education
- Jandy Campos, Children's Physicians – Dundee
- Jenna Barnett, Home Health
- Joan Sangimino, Private Duty
- Katie Knight, Gastroenterology
- Kristin Wood, NICU 7
- Lauren Backer, Inpatient Nursing Float Pool
- Madison Custard, OR
- Margaret Walsh, CCU
- Mariah Clark, CARES
- Mariela Castano, 4 Med/Surg
- Mary Drouillard, Radiology
- Natalia Koval, Neurology
- Raychel Hellmann, PICU
- Rebecca Deibler, Case Management
- Sandi Bennett, Developmental Peds
- Susan Beedle, OR
- Taelyr Weekly, Quality & Patient Safety
- Teresita Perez Cantero, 5 Med/Surg



Above: Kelsey Zindel, Taelyr Weekly, Jacque Carden, Tim L'Heureux, Alison Simonsen

Right: Pam Johnson-Carlson, Jenna Jimerson, Kristin Wood, Anne Dey, Jerica Kucera, Marcie Peterson



## Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) Positive Image of Nursing Award

**54** Nominations  
**28** Winners

Andrea Evans, Nephrology  
Caitlin Cassell, Pulmonology  
Cassidy Espeseth, 4 Med/Surg  
Colleen Burgher, CARES  
Delaney Schultz, Inpatient Hematology/Oncology  
Emily Rappolt, PICU  
Gerade Hepp, ECMO  
Grace Benson, Home Health  
Isabelle Uhrich, 6 Med/Surg  
Jennifer Zach, Cardiac Care Unit  
Jessica Craft, Emergency Department  
Joslyn Hoetfelker, Transport  
Kelsey Olson, Operating Room  
Kelsey Zindel, Quality & Patient Safety  
Krista Harvey, Children's Physicians – UNMC  
Kristin Vavricek, Outpatient Surgery Center  
Kristine Stolley, Emergency Department  
Kyra Baptiste, 5 Med/Surg  
Leah Vinter, Children's Physicians – La Vista  
Liz Greisch, Care Coordination  
Madelyne Shockley, Dialysis  
Mattie Wentz, Children's Physicians – Dundee  
Paige Giles, Cardiology  
Samantha Jones, NICU  
Sarah Cleaver, Adolescent Medicine  
Shelley Schmitz, Centralized Radiology Nursing  
Stephanie Rohrberg, Inpatient Nursing Float Pool  
Whitney King, Children's Physicians – Council Bluffs



## Robert E. Murphy Spirit of Caring Nursing Award

Isabelle Uhrich, BSN, RN, CPN,  
6 Med/Surg Staff RN



## Neonatal Nurse Practitioner (NNP) of the Year from the Nebraska Neonatal Advanced Practice Association

Beth Ehrhardt, MSN, APRN-NP, NNP-BC, APP  
Fellowship Program Director



## APP of the Year

Molly Johnson, MSN, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC,  
Children's Physicians Nurse Practitioner



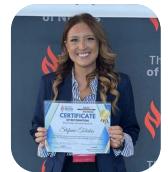
## APP Rising Star of the Year

McKenzie Falcone, DNP, APRN-NP,  
CPNP-AC/PC, Hematology/Oncology  
Nurse Practitioner



## Nebraska Nurses Association (NNA) 40 Under 40 Award Winner

Stefanie Toleikis, BSN, RN, CPN, CRN, CSRN,  
Manager Centralized Radiology Nursing



## Preceptor of the Year

Ca'Ryn Chasek, BSN, RN, Staff RN  
Children's Physicians – Bellevue



## Nursing Experience at Children's Nebraska:

<b>127</b> Less than 1 year	<b>222</b> 10–15 years
<b>272</b> 1–3 years	<b>319</b> 15+ years
<b>258</b> 3–5 years	<b>152</b> 20+ years
<b>330</b> 5–10 years	<b>35</b> 30+ years

42% of our nurses have 10 or more years of experience at Children's Nebraska

**1,715** total RNs, LPNs, APRNs

## 2025 Nurses who Retired

We honor the registered nurses who retired in 2025, recognizing their careers grounded in transformational leadership, exemplary professional practice and compassionate, patient- and family-centered care. Through mentorship, advocacy and clinical excellence, these nurses strengthened our nursing culture, empowered colleagues and advanced outcomes reflective of Magnet principles. We express our sincere gratitude for their enduring impact and the legacy of excellence they leave behind.

- Barbara Schwarz** – Clinical Nurse Legal Liaison, 45 years
- Lora Higgins** – Outpatient Surgery Staff RN, 38 years
- Leona Grace** – 6 Med/Surg Staff RN, 35 years
- Lindsey Stephens** – Rheumatology Clinic RN, 30 years
- Brenda Malloy** – OR Staff RN, 24 years
- Linda Long** – LPN Private Duty, 24 Years
- Sarah Ciriaco** – Compliance & Quality Coordinator, 24 years
- Carol Petersen** – CARES Staff RN, 23 years
- Janette Patterson** – Perioperative Data Coordinator, 14 years



# NURSING PRESENTATIONS, PUBLICATIONS & RESEARCH

## Publications

Scallon Kylie, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Lee Jessica, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, Hanna Angela, Thomas Patrick, Lee Junghyae, Oh Christopher. Substance Abuse and Mental Health: Exploring the Effects on Pediatric Trauma in the COVID-19 Pandemic Era. *Cureus*. 2025 Oct 21; 17(10):e95091. doi: 10.7759/cureus.95091. PMID: 41281101; PMCID: PMC12635506.

Alyssa J. Averhoff, DO, Junghyae Lee, PhD, Robyn Sawyer, RN, Emily Mohs, APRN-NP, Cori Kerr, APRN-NP, Courtney McLean, MD, MS. "Effects of Transport Team Composition on Neonatal Intubation Success." *Air Medical Journal*.

Camille L. Hancock Friesen, MD; Amanda McGlinchey, MHA, BSN, RN; Timothe E. L'Heureux, MHA; Ali N. Ibrahimiyeh, MD; Ellen Kerns, PhD, MPH, CPH; Subramanyan R. Kumar, MD, PhD. Single-Center Use of Real-Time Society of Thoracic Surgeons Congenital Heart Surgery Data to Improve Institutional Outcomes, *The Annals of Thoracic Surgery*, 2025, ISSN 0003-4975, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.athoracsur.2025.09.052>.

Baird J, Beaird G, Tanner EK, Emodi, Kristen, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC/AC, et al. Pediatric nurse perspectives on patient- and family-centered rounds: A qualitative study. *J Hosp Med*. 2025; 20: 1166-1173. doi:10.1002/jhm.70071

Alyssa J. Averhoff, Junghyae Lee, Robyn Sawyer, Emily Mohs, APRN-NNP, Cori Kerr, MSN, APRN-NNP, and Courtney McLean. "Effects of Transport Team Composition on Neonatal Intubation Success." *Air Medical Journal*, ahead of print, October 13, 2025. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.amj.2025.09.005>.

Marsh, Kimberly, Peeples ES. Impact of dexmedetomidine during hypothermia on initiation of enteral feeding in newborns with hypoxic-ischemic encephalopathy. *Journal of Neonatal-Perinatal Medicine*. 2025;18(2):101-109. doi:10.1177/19345798251318601

## Presentations at a Local, Regional, or National Conference:

Robert Grabowski DNP, MBA, APRN-NP, AGACNP-BC, CPNP-AC, CEN, CCRN, CFRN, CMTE, EMT-P. Rob Grabowski, DNP, MBA, APRN-NP, AGACNP-BC, CPNP-AC, CCAPP, CEN, CCRN, CFRN, C-NPT, CMTE, EMT-P. "Battlefield to Bedside: Pediatric Remote Damage Control Resuscitation in Civilian Prehospital Care". Podium presentation at the Air Medical Transport Conference, Omaha, NE. October 2025.

Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Tanya Trevillian, Kristen Ray, Christine Perlick, Loreen Meyer. Write It Down or It Didn't Happen: Making Trauma Guidelines Work. Presented on behalf of the Nurse Leadership PI Subcommittee at an early riser session at the Pediatric Trauma Society conference, Austin, TX, November 6, 2025.

Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Amy Schopperth, Gloria Musilli. Standardizing Pediatric Trauma Data: Addressing Gaps and Improving Outcomes. Presented on behalf of the Nurse Leadership Registry Subcommittee at the Pediatric Trauma Society Conference, Austin, TX, November 7, 2025.

Makayla Schissel, MPH; Ricky Flores, BS; Kelsey Zindel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC; Taelyr Weekly, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN; Russell McCulloh, MD; Chris Maloney, MD, PhD; Ellen Kerns, PhD, MPH, CPH. Implementation, adoption, and impact of integrated care pathways at a freestanding children's hospital [Poster Presentation]. AMIA 2025 Clinical Informatics Conference; 2025 May 20; Anaheim, CA, United States.

Kelsey Zindel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC; Makayla Schissel, MPH; Taelyr Weekly, PhD, MPH, BSN, RN; Chris Maloney, MD, PhD; Ellen Kerns, PhD, MPH, CPH. Usability of integrated care pathways at a freestanding children's hospital [Oral Presentation]. AMIA 2025 Clinical Informatics Conference; 2025 May 21; Anaheim, CA, United States.

Jacque Carden, MSN, RN; David Jantzen, MD; Jason T. Christensen, MD; Kelsey Zindel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC. Improving timeliness of stat echocardiography using medical record-integrated technology [Poster presentation]. Midwest Pediatric Cardiology Society Annual Meeting; 2025 September 18; Omaha, NE, United States

Jacque Carden, MSN, RN; David Jantzen, MD; Jason T. Christensen, MD; Kelsey Zindel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC. Establishing a formal presurgical image review process for transthoracic echocardiography in pediatric cardiology [Poster presentation]. Midwest Pediatric Cardiology Society Annual Meeting; 2025 September 18; Omaha, NE, United States

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Child Abuse Recognition and Evaluation. Podium presentation at the Emergency Medical Services by the Lake conference, Storm Lake, IA, January 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pre-hospital Hemorrhage Control. Podium presentation at the Emergency Medical Services by the Lake conference, Storm Lake, IA, February 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric ATV and Farm Related Injuries. Podium presentation at the Emergency Medical Services Conference, Spencer, IA, February 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric ATV and Farm Related Injuries. Podium presentation at the Iowa Trauma Coordinators Conference, Des Moines, IA, April 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric Pain. Podium presentation at the Nebraska Emergency Nurses Association Conference, York, NE, October 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric Pain. Podium presentation at the Nebraska Emergency Nurses Association Conference, York, NE, October 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric ATV and Farm Related Injuries. Podium presentation at the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Conference, Des Moines, IA, November 2025.

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN. Pediatric Traumatic Injury Case Studies. Podium presentation at the Iowa Emergency Medical Services Conference, Des Moines, IA, November 2025.

Patrick Lloyd and Adrienne Schleisman, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC/AC Bilateral Renal Agenesis and Amnioinfusions: Language in Life-Limiting Fetal Diagnoses. March 26, 2025. PowerPoint Presentation at Nebraska Hospice and Palliative Care Association's Living a Good Life... Sunrise to Sunset: Transforming Hospice and Palliative Care Conference, Lincoln, NE.

Brittany Nelson DNAP, APRN, Mary Cate Raynor, APRN-CRNA, Kaelee Steffensmeier, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC, PMHNP-BC, Annie Veys, MSNAP, CRNA. Podium Presentation at the Nebraska Association of Perianesthesia Nurses, March 2025, Omaha, NE.

Shannon Hoy, DNP, CRNA, NNP. Anesthetic Considerations for Acute Epiglottitis. Podium Presentation at the Society of Pediatric Anesthesia Conference, March 2025, Orlando, FL.

Christina Corr, MSN, APRN-NNP. Tiny Baby, Big Problem: Neonatal Transport Strategies for the Smallest Patients. Podium Presentation at the Air Medical Transport Conference, October 2025, Omaha, NE.

Lauren DelCore, MSN, APRN-NNP. Panel Presentation for National Neonatal POCUS Collaboration. 2025.

Alex Stoupa, MPAS, PA-C. Podium Presentation at Nebraska Academy of Physician Assistants Spring Conference, April 2025, Kearney, NE,

Emily Pietrantone, MSN, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC/AC. Podium Presentation at Nebraska Medicine 2025 Diabetes Update and Poster Presentation at the International Society for Pediatric and Adolescent Diabetes conference, November 2025, Montreal, Canada.

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Pediatric Cardiac Arrest and Pediatric Seizures. Podium Presentation for MEMS by the Lake Conference.

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Pediatric Suicide. Podium Presentation at Cherokee Nursing and EMS Conference.

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Pediatric Suicide, and Pediatric Anaphylaxis. Podium Presentation at Crawford County EMS Conference.

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Could be You Case Review: Developing Your Spidey Sense. Virtual Presentation at Heartland EMS for Children Coalition (HECC).

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Pediatric Suicide, and Could be You Case Review: Developing Your Spidey Sense. Podium Presentation at the Iowa State EMS Conference.

Becci Meredith, MSN, RN, CCRN, C-NPT. Imminent and Isolated-Pre Term Pre Hospital Emergencies. Podium Presentation at the Iowa State EMS Conference.

## Poster Presentations:

Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, CPN, CPEN, TCRN, Amy Schopperth, Gloria Musilli. Triple Threat: Crafting a Comprehensive Plan for Data Quality, PI, and Validation. Poster presentation at Trauma Quality Improvement Program (TQIP) Conference, Chicago, IL, November 2025.

Leah Karloff, BSN, Amanda Hinkel DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC. Increasing Provider Self-Confidence Rating in Identifying Victims of Child Trafficking Before and After Educational Seminar. Poster Presentation May 2025, Omaha, NE.

Kathy English, EVP, COO, Amanda Hinkel DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC. Collaboration: The Key to Unlocking Transformational Success. Poster and Presentation at the 2025 Annual Children's Hospital Association Leadership Conference, November 2025, Chula Vista, CA.

Lisanne Pessini MSN, APRN-NP, CPNP-PC/AC and Matthew Tolliver, BSN, RN, C-WOCN. Do the Blue: Gentian Violet/Methylene Blue Polyurethane Foam in the Longitudinal Management of a Large Abdominal Wound in a Preterm Neonate. Poster Presentation SAWC Fall Conference, September 2025, Las Vegas, NV.

Jennifer Schmoker, RN, BSN, CCRN; Melissa Wehrmann, M.D; Jennifer Winter, M.D; Ashley Larsen, APRN, FNP-C, CPNP-AC; Abigail Phillips, RDN, LMNT; Sarah Ozanne, MS, RD, LMNT, CSP; Thomas Blount, M.D. Early Outcomes of Standardized Feeding Practices For Medical Infants in the ACCU. Poster Presentation, PC4/PAC3 Spring Conference, 2025, Washington D.C.

Melissa Wehrmann, MD; Jennifer Schmoker, RN, BSN, CCRN; Ashley Larsen, APRN, FNP-C, PNP-AC; Thomas Blount, MD; Sarah Ozanne, MS, RD, LMNT, CSP; Jennifer Winter, MD; Abigail Phillips, RDN, LMNT. Standardization of nasogastric tube insertion and removal in patients improves PO feeding routes in children admitted to the Cardiac Care Unit. Poster Presentation, PC4/PAC3 Spring Conference, 2025, Washington D.C.

## Ongoing Nursing Research:

Prospective Pediatric Cervical Spine Clearance Study, IRB#0835-22-EP. Jessica Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC, Site-PI and Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, TCRN, CPEN, Site Co-PI. Prospective Pediatric Cervical Spine Clearance Study. (IRB#0835-22-EP)

Jessica Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC. Ubiquitin C-terminal Hydrolase L1 (UCH-L1) and Glial Fibrillary Acidic Protein (GRAP) as acute biomarkers for prediction of traumatic brain injury (TBI) in children. (IRB# 0423-24EP)

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN & Becci Meredith, BSN, RN, CCRN-K, C-NPT. The role of the pediatric trauma center: Evaluating the impact on pre-hospital care education. (IRB #0074-25EX)

Kristen Foster, BSN, RN, CCRN & Jessica Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC. Pediatric pancreatic trauma management in a large tertiary care hospital: Operative vs. non-operative management of pediatric trauma over 10 years. (IRB #0070-25EP)

Jessica Lee, MSN, MBA, RN, CEN, TCRN, NEA-BC & Kylie Scallon, BAN, RN, TCRN, CPEN, CPN. Multicenter comparative study of non-accidental trauma (NAT) outcomes in military children. (IRB# 0324-24-EP)

Sara Tremel, BSN, RN, CCRN-K & Jamie Bussen, BSN, RN, CPN. Quality of pediatric resuscitation in a multicenter collaborative: An observational study (pediRES-Q). (IRB #0345-23EP)

Jacqueline Hanks, DNP, APRN-NP, PC/AC, CPNP. Children with Bronchopulmonary Dysplasia (BPD). (IRB #0563-22EP)

Venus Anderson, MSN, APRN-FNP-BC. Potts Shunt data repository. (IRB #0547-18EP)

Amy Kenkel, MSN, CPNP-AC. Pediatric Heart Transplant Study Group. (IRB #0535-13EP)

Kelsey Zindel, DNP, APRN-NP, CPNP-AC/PC, SI. Harnessing a Machine Learning Approach to Predict Clinical Pathway Adoption and Engagement: A User-Centered Improvement Strategy on How Providers Interact with AgileMD Decision Support. (IRB#0052-26EP)

## 2025 Research Fellowship Nurses:

Payton Conrad, BSN, RN. Project HOPE – Providing education & airway/resuscitation kits for premature infants to rural hospitals.

Haley Friesen, BSN, RN. Domestic violence screening in the outpatient settings.

Libby Shonka-Smith, BSN, BA, RN. Management of pediatric agitation in the ED.

## 2025 EBP Fellowship Nurses:

Becca Hester, BSN, RN, CPN. Radiation Safety for Staff in the Hybrid Cardiac Cath Lab – adding protective devices and standardizing usage.

Cindy Scott, BSN, RN, CPN. Hyperlipidemia Clinic patient/family communication regarding follow-up labs due.

Katie Howe, BSN, RN. Prevention of acute kidney injury in the cardiac transplant patient.

Mary Herrington, BSN, RN. Best methods for easing PIV insertion stress/anxiety for Patch/Neurodivergent patients



# NURSE RESIDENCY 2025 OUTCOME HIGHLIGHTS

**Nolan Furlong, 4MS; Brilee Rose, Specialty Flex; Emma Gleason, 6MS; Gabrielle Hunke, 6MS; Emma Panowicz, Pulmonology**  
*Project Title: Does the implementation of a pre-placement huddle reduce the risk of central line associated infections?*

**Sami Clarkson, NICU; Cassidy Garcia, NICU; Claire Meinke, NICU**  
*Project Title: What is the best practice of oral hygiene in neonates (< 1 yr. old) who are hospitalized?*

**Hannah Little, CCU; Korie Rosno, CCU**  
*Project title: In the hospitalized pediatric patient receiving a continuous intralipid infusion, what is the best practice for pausing infusion to promote lab result accuracy?*

**Kayleigh Harper, CCU; Cole Rath, CCU; Kaitlin Neely, CCU**  
*Project Title: In hospitalized patients requiring long term NG tube feeding, what is the best NG tube securement process to reduce tube dislodgement compared to tape/DuoDerm combination currently in use?*

**Audrey Freyhof, PICU; Morgan Smith, PICU**  
*Project Title: In Pediatric patients at high risk for developing delirium, what is the best practice for standardized assessment and prevention bundle?*

**Caitlin Cassell, Pulmonology; Hailey Foster, Dermatology; Kara Keezer, Pediatric Surgery; Caitlin Hewitt, Childrens Physicians**  
*Project Title: What is best practice for pain management for pediatric patients undergoing painful procedures in clinic?*

**Kathryn Berwick, Inpatient Flex; Nikki Faber, Inpatient Flex; Lauren Randle, Inpatient Flex; Emily Rosenthal, Inpatient Flex**  
*Project Title: In hospitalized pediatric patients with central venous lines, what is the best practice for implementing CHG wipes to decrease central line infections?*

**Jordan Boysen, NICU; Natalie Kleint, NICU; Lauren Stalzer, NICU; Hannah Westerdale, NICU**  
*Project Title: In the neonatal intensive care unit environment, does implementing a noise monitoring program decrease noise production to promote neonatal development?*

**Maryanne Grover, OR; Rebecca Hansen, OR; Anna Thompson, OR**  
*Project Title: In pediatric patients undergoing surgery, does the use of specific tools or devices compare to standard positioning techniques in terms of reducing skin related complications?*

**Breanna Arnoldy, Children's Physicians; Chloe Kingery, Children's Physicians**  
*Project Title: In pediatric primary care, what is the best practice for transitioning a child to adult care?*

**Amanda Aranda-Padilla, OR; Sarah Sager, OR; Andrew Nanfite, COSC**  
*Project Title: In pediatric patients undergoing surgery, how does the use of antiseptic skin preparation with chlorhexidine compared to standard iodine-based solutions impact the reduction of post-operative surgical site infections?*

**Mikayla Chavez, NICU; Eliana Gnuse, NICU; Trinity Lovings, NICU; Claire Shumard, NICU; Marisa Williams, NICU**  
*Project Title: In infants, is the open palm technique more effective than the two-finger or encircling technique, in terms of survival rates, return of spontaneous circulation, or neurological outcomes?*

**Madison Dragoo, 4MS; Bridget Hughes, 4MS; Mariela Varela, 4MS**  
*Project Title: In the hospitalized pediatric patient population, what is best practice for rooming in prior to discharge?*

**Kyra Baptiste, 5MS; Haley Bassett, 5MS; Michelle Kloppenborg, 5MS; Mikaela Mammoser, 5MS; Oakley Pfeifer, 5MS**  
*Project Title: In pediatric patients with complex medical needs, does use of an adaptable care plan improve the efficacy of information shared amongst the interdisciplinary team and improve patient quality care?*

**Sophia Carpenter, 6MS; Caitlyn Glazebrook, 6MS; Carly Herman, 6MS; Pearl Apker, VAT**  
*Project Title: In pediatric patients receiving a PIV catheter, does placement of a StatLock upon PIV insertion compared to no StatLock improve the longevity of the PIV without complications?*

**Mallory Koerner, CCU; Ammelia Mendoza-Lopez, CCU; Kaitlyn Sterns, CCU; Nicole Strater, CCU**  
*Project Title: In pediatric ICU patients requiring a nasogastric tube, is it beneficial to have a nurse-driven protocol for KUB orders to verify placement, reduce complications, and enhance care efficiency?*

**Ryan McManus, ED; Emma Christianson, ED; Emily Maginot, Inpatient HemOnc**  
*Project title: In the pediatric trauma population, does the use of whole blood compared to blood products improve quality outcomes?*

**Zoey Carrico, PICU; Maria Chavez, PICU; Isabel Gottlieb, PICU; Ricky Hayden, PICU**  
*Project Title: In prone, intubated patients requiring CPR for cardiac arrest, what is the best position for CPR (prone vs. supine) to establish quicker return to spontaneous circulation (ROSC) and improve outcomes?*

**Megan Hardisty, 4MS; Hayley Holden, 4MS; Rilee Silvain, 4MS**  
*Project Title: For inpatient pediatric medical-surgical patients, does implementing the Bedside Pediatric Early Warning System (BPEWS) compared to the standard Pediatric Early Warning System (PEWS) better predict patient deterioration?*

**Jacob Blair, 5MS; Claren Coalson, 5MS; Andrea Jeffers, 5MS; Carissa Schaben, 5MS**  
*Project Title: In the Children's Nebraska SMS unit for pediatric EMU patients, does the use of a new fall risk assessment tool compared to the current tool improve the percentage of epileptic patients flagged as fall risk?*

**Maddie Buchholz, Inpatient HemOnc; Kendel Gifford, Inpatient HemOnc; Isabel Schafer, Inpatient HemOnc**  
*Project Title: In patients with central venous lines (CVLs), does saline locking compared to heparin locking provide similar benefits in terms of catheter patency, risk for thrombosis, and cost effectiveness?*

**Kaitlyn Higgins, PICU; Emma Lefler, PICU; Breeana Read, PICU**  
*Project Title: In critically ill pediatric patients, what thermoregulation tools and/or devices are considered best practice to maintain normothermia?*

**Jonathan Bowers, PICU; Laura Coleman, PICU; Steven Wardlaw, PICU**  
*Project Title: In pediatric trauma patients in the PICU, does the use of a pupilometer, compared to traditional manual pupillary assessment, improve the early detection of neurological deterioration and patient outcomes?*

**Mia Holmquist, CCU; Payton Rhen, CCU; Betsy Crumly, Inpatient Flex**  
*Project Title: In pediatric patients with cardiac diagnoses, does the cardiac pediatric early warning score system compared to other early warning score systems result in better patient outcomes?*





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