North Hills Hospital’s Nurses are Recognized as Excellent

The Great 100 Nurses program is sponsored by the Texas Nurses Association each year, and the winners are chosen because of their leadership qualities, service to community, and their role model as compassionate caregivers who have made significant contributions to the nursing field.

It is a great accomplishment for our facility to have five nurses win this award each year for the past three years! Very few healthcare organizations have done this. This recognition by the DFW nursing community demonstrates that our nurses are excellent.

2006
Felicia Bessman
Outpatient Services
Charlyn Pafford
Nursing Operations
Mary Williams
Med/Surg

2007

2008
Jill Frost
Education
Amanda Robbins
Education
Chris Hutchison
Employee Health
Paula Wyman
Med/Surg, Third Floor
Bart Burgess
CSU

2009
Susan Duboskas
Cardiovascular Services
Jan Guinn-Pigg
Rehab Unit
Clint Magee
PCU
Lynette Montalbano
CSU
Darryl Perkins
CCU

2010
Tracey Smithson
Med/Surg
Rose Messer
ICU
Sally Carmen
Education
Angie Branch
Education
Andrea Wegman
PCU

Moments of Shared Governance

North Hills Hospital has a nursing shared governance structure to support nurses’ control over nursing practice. Through shared governance, the hospital’s nurses address practice concerns and develop, implement, and evaluate standards of care. The Nurse Practice Council (NPC) is chaired by Joyce Kelly, RN, MSN, ACM, who is a case manager, and co-chaired by Amanda Robbins, RN, MS, who is the Assistant Director of Clinical Excellence. NPC is made up of 25 nurses who share in decision making. An example of NPC success is the implementation of the hospital-wide electronic Kardex, which will enhance the nurse’s ability to standardize communication at shift change regarding each patient. The Kardex is an ongoing shift-to-shift account of relevant information about the patient that may not be in the chart.

NPC also formed the Glycemic Control Team subcommittee to improve the knowledge and competence of the direct care nurse. This team, partnered with Medical Center of Lewisville’s diabetic educator, Kerry Kennedy, RN, to develop the program Making Diabetes Black and White. The following was accomplished:

• Conducted a baseline assessment of knowledge and beliefs about managing and educating inpatient diabetics.
• Implemented education for the direct care nurse on preventing and treating hypoglycemia, carbohydrate counting, and managing glycemic patients.
• Developed a patient education booklet, Eight Steps to Managing Your Diabetes, for nurses to use at the patient’s bedside during hospitalization, and for the patient to take home.