

NURSING Matters

From the Desk of Michelle Conley, DNP, MBA, RN, Chief Nursing Officer (CNO), Jefferson Health – Northeast

Dear Team,

Being a part of this organization for the past several years, I'm very much aware of the great work our nurses do every day. However, it's even more special and fulfilling when we're recognized by organizations in our industry.

On May 22, the Hospital Association of Pennsylvania (HAP) held its 2018 Achievement Award event. HAP's prestigious Achievement Award Program recognizes exceptional programs that innovate care delivery and improve the health of communities across the commonwealth.

During the event, Jefferson Health – Northeast's Progressive Mobility Team was presented with the Living the Vision Award for our submission, *Progressive Mobility: Evidence Based Program Improves Outcomes in Critically Ill Patients*, which detailed the outcomes of our Progressive Mobility Program implemented in the Torresdale ICU.

The Progressive Mobility Team – made up of an interdisciplinary group consisting of nurses, physical therapists, and physicians – was formed in 2016 to perform an assessment of equipment needed to help ventilated patients get out of bed and become mobile. This necessitated an inventory of equipment, a commitment of staff to ambulate these patients, and the development of protocols by which we ambulate patients far sooner than we had been.

The team found that the availability of walkers and other mobility equipment in the nursing units were scarce. Our Physical and Occupational Therapy teams routinely brought their own walkers to patient rooms to assist patients. They also determined that the availability of geriatric chairs was limited. Nursing units across all three campuses were contacted to obtain the current number of chairs and walkers that they possessed and the number that the departments felt were needed. These are a few of the things the team did to assess readiness to implement the program.

Once fully implemented, patients benefited tremendously, with a notable decrease in the ALOS and ventilator days of patients engaged in the program. In addition, an initiative to implement an evidence-based mobility program to patients in medical surgical patients is underway now based on our wonderful outcomes in the ICU.

I was present to receive the award, along with Bea Leyden, BSN, MBA, RN, CPHQ, NEA-BC, Director, Nursing Clinical Practice/Performance Improvement. Also in attendance were: Rich Galup, Senior Vice President of Operations; Ashley Silverman, DPT, Physical Therapist; Carolyn McGonagle, BSN, RN, CCRN; Nurse Manager, Jefferson Torresdale Hospital ICU; Marriann Mercado, PhD, RN, CENP, Clinical Director, Jefferson Torresdale Hospital; Betzaida Medina Sasse, BSN, RN, CCRN; Staff Nurse, Jefferson Torresdale Hospital ICU; and Kathleen Kinslow, Executive Vice President & Chief Integration Officer, Jefferson Health.

Congratulations to the Progressive Mobility Team and the Torresdale ICU for their hard work and well-deserved recognition. Their dedication and passion for patient safety is reflected with this prestigious honor.



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