

Oklahoma's NURSING TIMES

May 2, 2016
Vol. 17 Issue 18

Information for the Oklahoma Nursing & Health Care Professional
Published Weekly. Locally Owned and Operated by Metro Publishing L.L.C.

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Celebrate National Nurses Week!

~ Look inside for the special pull out section honoring today's nurses for their many contributions! ~

A new beginning

Kramer School of Nursing to offer first adult acute care tract in Oklahoma



As a faculty member at the Kramer School of Nursing, Gina Crawford will serve as the director of an new tract this fall for the nurse practitioner.

by James Coburn
Staff Writer

This fall Kramer School of Nursing will be offering an acute care tract, said Gina Crawford, DPN, APRN, FNP-C, director of the Family Nurse Practitioner Program and assistant professor of nursing at the Oklahoma City University

OKLAHOMA'S NURSING TIMES

See KRAMER Page 3

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Culture of safety to highlight Nurses Week

Nurses Week to Be Celebrated May 6-12

With Jane Nelson, Executive Director,
Oklahoma Nurses Association

National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale's birthday.

It's a small, but important reminder, of how important nursing is to the fabric of our society.

Oklahoma Nurses Association Executive Director Jane Nelson says the week serves several important functions.

"Every year, Nurses Week focuses attention on the diverse ways Oklahoma's 42,000 registered nurses work to provide quality patient care and to improve the health of millions of individuals," Nelson said. "This year, "Culture of Safety" is the selected theme, in recognition of the impact ethical nursing practice has on patient outcomes and the quality of care."

Registered nurses around the country are encouraged to wear their "RN Pins" in honor of Nurses Week and RN Recognition Day.

As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day, to be celebrated annually. And as of 2003, National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week each year.

The nursing profession has been supported and promoted by the American Nurses Association (ANA) since 1896.

"Nursing continues to be rated the most trusted profession, according to the annual Gallup poll ranking of honesty and ethics in various fields," Nelson said. "For the past 14 years, the public has voted nurses as the most honest and ethical profession in America. This year, 85 percent of Americans rated nurses' honesty and

See SAFETY Page 4

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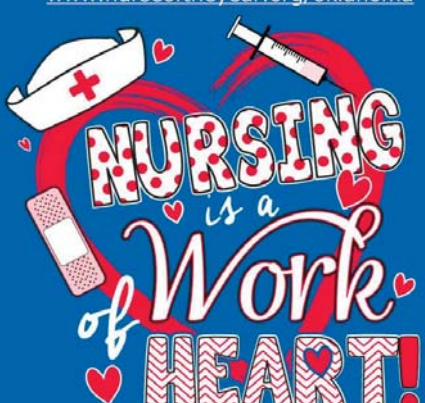
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KRAMER

Continued from Page 1

campus. There is not an acute care program being offered in Oklahoma at the present time.

There are a lot of family nurse practitioners or adult nurse practitioners out there, who work in primary care in rural communities. They are responsible for going to the small hospitals in the rural communities to see patients or to perform a shift in the emergency room.

The Oklahoma State Board of Nursing wants the nurse practitioners to be prepared to handle these acute care challenges.

So in order for these advanced nurse practitioners to continue, they need to have specific education for the acute care environment. Kramer will be offering both a post masters certificate in the acute care track and then the full bachelor's to DNP program to those who know their primary call to work is going to be in acute care facilities as opposed to primary care in an individualized practice.

"That will be for people who have a bachelor's degree in nursing

that want to become acute care practitioners," Crawford said.

Kramer will be starting with a small group of these nursing professionals this fall. Inquiries about the program have already started for Kramer. Crawford expects quite a number of applicants will respond to the program.

"I will be overseeing the advanced practice programs of the two tracts of students," she said. "We already have the family nurse practitioner tract. Students will have an option."

The new tract will appeal to those nurses who like working in an ICU or an ER by choosing the adult gerontology acute care tract.

A family nurse practitioner who wants to get an education in acute care can come to Kramer to earn the acute tract to get the courses needed to take the certification exam for the adult gerontology acute care tract, she continued. They would have the double certification.

"So that's a really cool option and vice versa," Crawford said. "Say a nurse practitioner or an adult practitioner or a pediatric practitioner wants a certificate as a family nurse practitioner -- they can do the family nurse practitioner certificate as well."

This tract will bridge the medical

care gap in Oklahoma. There is a huge need for family nurse practitioners because they function as primary care providers, Crawford said. Many of them work in under-served rural populations in the state.

"So that's one need that we meet," she said. "The acute care will fill another need. There's not an acute care program in the state of Oklahoma."

As a result there are a sparse number of acute care practitioners of adult gerontology, Crawford said. Most of those who are practicing here had to go out of state for their acute care education.

"So it meets a need for our state in educating our acute care nurse practitioners," she explained.

There are a lot of health care problems in Oklahoma and the health care system is in need of providers to bridge some of that gap. Enrollment for the program is anticipated to grow this summer with a small initial group of candidates for the first cohort of students.

"We're just getting off the ground," she said.

Crawford grew up in a rural area of Oklahoma in Okarche where she practiced for years.

"The expectation was that we take care of our patients while they were

in the hospital," she said. "But we didn't have that acute care educational opportunity. So I learned working with my father all the acute care pieces so we could manage all of our patients. He was a family practice physician. So it would have been fabulous to have had that opportunity when I was a new nurse practitioner. I didn't know it was out there."

Crawford said there has been a lot of interest about the acute care tract at Kramer as they get a lot of questions.

"I think it will be competitive and we will have to look at those applications pretty closely," she said.

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Oklahoma's NURSING TIMES

Published each Monday And Locally Owned And Operated by Metro Publishing L.L.C.

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SAFETY

Continued from Page 1

ethical standards as “very high” or “high,” tying a nurses’ high point on the Gallup poll and 17 percentage points above any other profession.”

The American Nurses Association has ramped up its efforts to assist nurses in achieving a culture of safety in 2016 — no matter where they work or what role they hold.

The theme of this yearlong campaign is Safety 360 Taking Responsibility Together. As part of the campaign, ANA is highlighting its range of existing resources through articles and other communication vehicles and offering new educational opportunities, including webinars, to nurses every month on a specific aspect of a culture of safety.

ANA defines a culture of safety as one in which core values and behaviors — resulting from a collective and sustained commitment by organizational leadership, managers and workers — emphasize safety over competing goals.

Attributes of a positive safety

culture include:

- openness and mutual trust when discussing safety concerns and solutions without individual blame;
- marshaling of appropriate resources, such as safe staffing- and skill-mix levels;
- a learning environment in which health care professionals learn from errors and proactively detect systemic weaknesses;
- transparency and accountability.

ANA is asking all nurses to consider how they can individually and collectively work toward creating a culture of safety in their workplaces, which means ensuring not only the safety of their patients, but also their own safety. For example, safe patient handling and mobility strategies prevent injuries to patients and nurses. The same can be said for safe staffing and a host of other issues that ANA — and hopefully nurses nationwide — will explore over the course of the year.

Nelson believes nurses are the future of healthcare in our state.

“Health care in Oklahoma is in tremendous flux and nurses need to be engaged in creating the future not just affected by it,” she said.

National Nurses Week a brief history

National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6 and ends on May 12, Florence Nightingale’s birthday. These permanent dates enhance planning and position National Nurses Week as an established recognition event. As of 1998, May 8 was designated as National Student Nurses Day, to be celebrated annually. And as of 2003, National School Nurse Day is celebrated on the Wednesday within National Nurses Week each year.

The nursing profession has been supported and promoted by the American Nurses Association (ANA) since 1896. Each of ANA’s state and territorial nurses associations promotes the nursing profession at the state and regional levels. Each conducts celebrations on these dates to recognize the contributions that nurses and nursing make to the community.

The ANA supports and encourages National Nurses Week recognition programs through the state and district nurses associations, other specialty nursing organizations, educational facilities, and independent health care companies and institutions.

BRIEF HISTORY

Eisenhower to proclaim a “Nurse Day” in October of the following year. The proclamation was never made.

1954 “National Nurse Week” was observed from October 11–16. The year of the observance marked the 100th anniversary of Florence Nightingale’s mission to Crimea. Representative Frances P. Bolton sponsored the bill for a nurse week. A bill for a “National Nurse Week” was introduced in the 1955 Congress, but no action was taken. Congress discontinued its practice of joint resolutions for national weeks of various kinds.

1972 Again a resolution was presented by the House of Representatives for the President to proclaim “National Registered Nurse Day.” It did not occur.

1974 In January, the International Council of Nurses (ICN) proclaimed that May 12 would be “International Nurse Day.” (May 12 is the birthday

of Florence Nightingale.) Since 1965, the ICN has celebrated “International Nurse Day.”

1974 In February of that year, a week was designated by the White House as “National Nurse Week”, and President Nixon issued a proclamation.

1978 New Jersey Governor Brendan Byrne declared May 6 as “Nurses Day.” Edward Scanlan, of Red Bank, NJ, took up the cause to perpetuate the recognition of nurses in his state. Mr. Scanlan had this date listed in Chase’s Calendar of Annual Events. He promoted the celebration on his own.

1981 ANA, along with various nursing organizations, rallied to support a resolution initiated by nurses in New Mexico, through their Congressman, Manuel Lujan, to have May 6, 1982, established as “National Recognition Day for Nurses.”

1982 In February, the ANA Board of Directors formally acknowledged May 6, 1982 as “National Nurses Day.” The action affirmed a joint resolution of the United States Congress designating May 6 as “National Recognition Day for Nurses.”

1982 President Ronald Reagan signed a proclamation on March 25 proclaiming “National Recognition Day for Nurses” to be May 6, 1982.

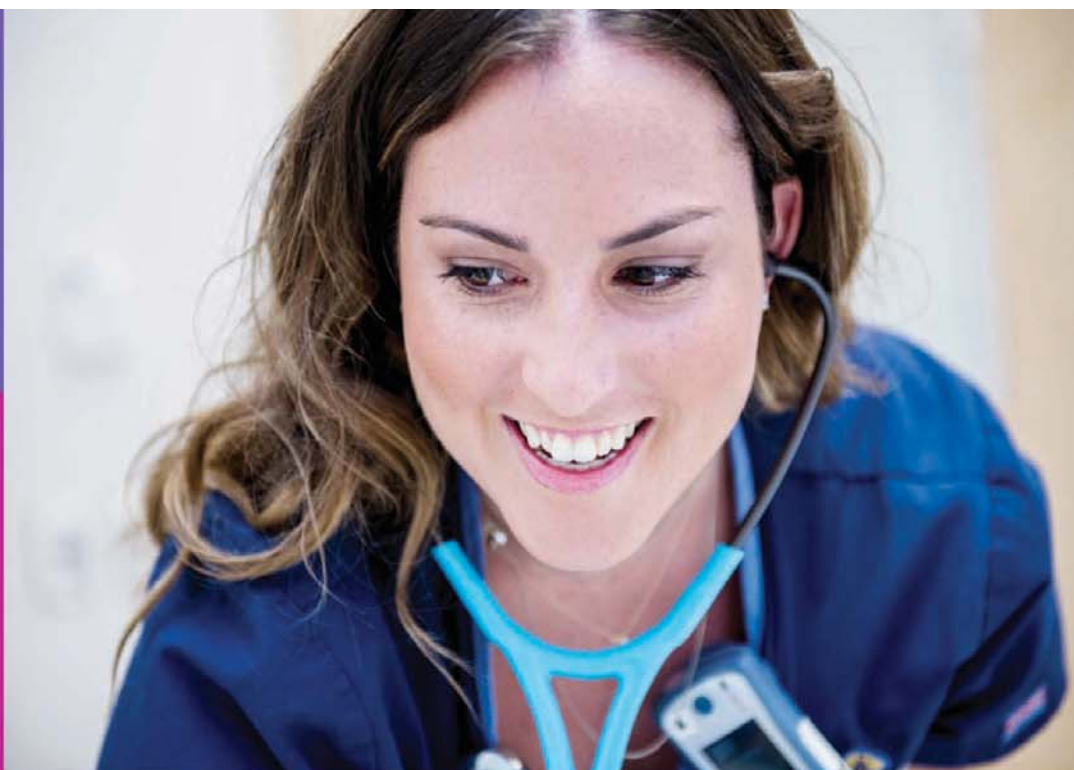
1990 The ANA Board of Directors expanded the recognition of nurses to a week-long celebration, declaring May 6–12, 1991, as “National Nurses Week.”

1993 The ANA Board of Directors designated May 6–12 as permanent dates to observe “National Nurses Week” in 1994 and in all subsequent years.

1996 The ANA initiated “National RN Recognition Day” on May 6, 1996, to honor the nation’s indispensable registered nurses for their tireless commitment 365 days a year. The ANA encourages its state and territorial nurses associations and other organizations to acknowledge May 6 as “National RN Recognition Day.”

1997 The ANA Board of Directors, at the request of the National Student Nurses Association, designated May 8 as “National Student Nurses Day.”

**MAY 6-12,
2016**



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The Uniform Shoppe offers fashionable, professional medical uniforms that are up-to-date in style with fabrics and colors, said Jodi Weise, co-owner of the Uniform Shoppe, located in Tulsa and Oklahoma City. She and her parents own both stores. Jodi lives in Tulsa while Elaine and Albert Weise live in Oklahoma City.

"They are great people. Everybody loves them," Weise said of her parents. Albert and Elaine Weise opened the Uniform Shoppe in Tulsa in 1962.

The Uniform Shoppe is located at 6221 East 61st Street, just west of Sheridan in Tulsa, and in Oklahoma City at 10503 North May Avenue, between Hefner Road and Britton Road.

The Uniform Shoppe represents quite a few manufacturers while offering quality at the best price possible. It also offers personalized services such as monogramming and logos. It will hand steam.

"If we need to outfit their whole group we can come to their office," Weise said. "We give personalized attention when they walk in our store. We try to make sure our staff is knowledgeable,



With locations in Oklahoma City and Tulsa, The Uniform Shoppe can make shopping convenient and affordable with all the latest brands.

not only in the styles, sizes, fabrics and colors but what the trends are and what the major hospitals, at least, are wearing."

Reversible scrubs are also available for surgery. The Uniform Shoppe also caters to a number of offices and keeps records of all customers they work with in order to know what their uniform program is at anytime.

"If they send one of their people into our store then we have records of what they wear so we can outfit them properly," Weise said. "If we don't happen to have their size or their color in stock we do special order it for them."

Nurses today want to look fashionable in ready-to-wear uniforms that are functional, Weise said. They combine fashion with function and fabric, Weise explained. Clients first consider comfort, she added.

"They want comfort and then they want style. Those are the two most important things. Really, price just comes down to the

end when they're looking for something that's going to last and feel comfortable," Weise said. "When they feel good about themselves and they look good, they perform better on the job."

White is still worn during nursing school graduations. However, the only white that is prevalent today is on lab coats, she said. People are wearing solid colors such as black and Navy, Weise said.

"Those are colors that men and women both can wear in group situations. But most places are color coded," Weise said.

"Some offices like to color coordinate and wear the same color depending on the day of the week. The state of Oklahoma requires that nurses wear protective equipment. Uniforms are set apart by being made to stand the wear and tear of work with more stitches per inch," Weise said.

The difference in price depends on how the material is put together and how many stitches

are used per inch of material, she said. There are more pockets on uniforms with double stitches to make fabric last when hands are constantly in and out of pockets.

"There's a lot of pockets because they have to carry a lot of things," Weise said. "But you take all of that and you role it into how do I make it look fashionable. That's why uniforms are unique and that's why uniforms are required vs. street clothes."

She said nurses are the ones who are taking care of families. They are there all through the night.

"When you ring for the nurse, they're the ones that come and help you with whatever you need," Weise said.

She said it is amazing that they keep a positive attitude and a smile on their face with all the challenges they face in a day.

"I think they are angels on this earth, the way they are compassionate," she said.

Being a nurse means smart leadership and growth

St. Anthony Hospital is the crowning point of midtown renaissance

Walk through the modern hallways of St. Anthony Hospital in midtown Oklahoma City and you will meet nurses who have worked there for more than 30 years, said Stephanie Collier, a registered nurse in the ICU. She has been with the midtown Oklahoma City hospital for nine years.

Collier is impressed with the hospital's employee satisfaction, which is one reason she has worked there for nearly a decade.

"Most of the managers who work here have been in our position, not asking us to do anything they haven't done themselves," said Collier, a charge nurse.

The hospital receives patients from all walks of life and treats them with respect and unconditional love no matter their situation.

"If you're going to stay here, your mentality as a nurse has to be to help people who can't help themselves," she said.

The history of St. Anthony Hospital is a vibrant legacy of outreach, including helping people through the Great Depression with the soup lines.

"We helped with the Oklahoma City bombing," Collier said.

St. Anthony remains a helping hand to the community as a beacon of hope through the years.

"In order to work here I think you have to be a certain kind of personality," she said. "And you find the people who stay here are those kind of people. And everybody around just wants to help people."

Collier began her nursing career at St. Anthony as a licensed practical nurse. She had been an ICU nurse in the military. Collier said the practice of St. Anthony has been to hire RNs and not LPNs for the ICU. But her boss made an exception and took a chance with Collier.

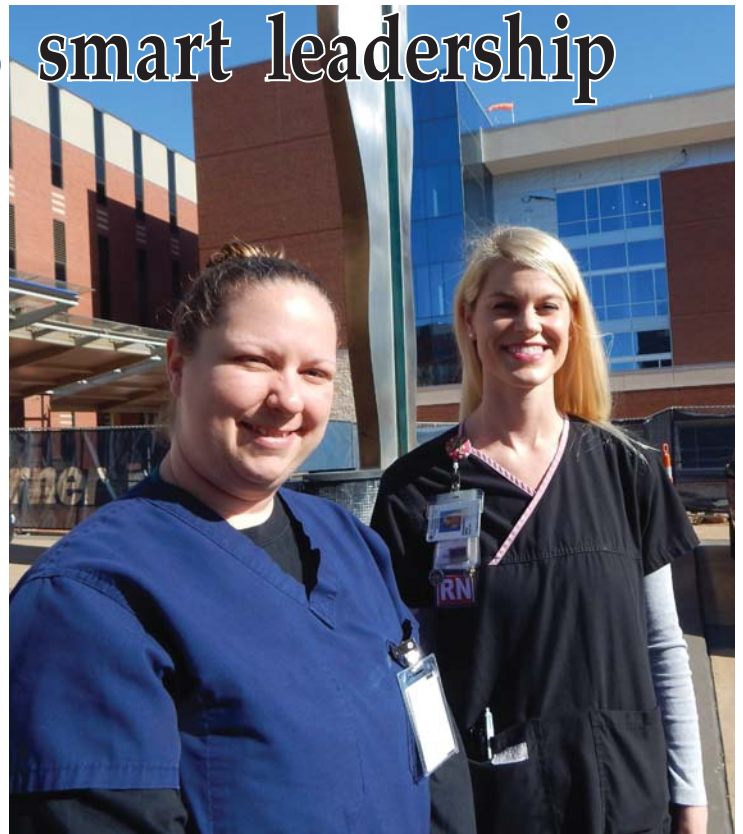
"Since then she has helped me grow into a leadership role," Collier said. "So as a nurse I have grown exponentially in this ICU with her working with me and her taking a chance with me."

She has since received credentials in heart recovery and dialysis. She is trained to respond rapidly to an event before a Code Blue happens.

Collier gets to know a lot of people who work at St. Anthony by seeing them every day and often times collaborating with them.

One such person is ER nurse Allie Webb, RN, who has been with St. Anthony for eight years.

"She can call and say, 'Hey, we need help.' Or I can call down there and say, 'Do you have this piece of equipment?'" Collier said.



St. Anthony ICU nurse Stephanie Collier, RN, and ER nurse Allie Webb, RN, look forward to the opening of the St. Anthony Pavilion, now under construction in midtown Oklahoma City.

St. Anthony is a hospital that values the meaning of being a nurse, Webb said.

"You can't build a house without a foundation and I think they really understand that," Webb said. "I think it speaks to all the healthplexes we have opened. I don't think you do unless you are successful, and part of our success, I think, is due to all the great people we have working at St. Anthony."

St. Anthony Hospital is excited about its new four-story St. Anthony Hospital Pavilion. When it opens in late May or early June of this year, the 110,000-square-foot facility will grace Oklahoma as the hospital's latest expansion on the Oklahoma City hospital's midtown campus.

It consists of a new emergency room to replace the existing ER. There are two new intensive care units and an intermediate care unit.

The Pavilion represents the crowning point of the 2014 plan. In 2003, Saints made the decision to stay in midtown by investing \$220 million to improving and modernizing its campus. The results have been spectacular, adding to the renaissance of downtown Oklahoma City with development and growth.

"Knowing that I have the power and knowledge to help people," is what continues to motivate Webb's nursing career each day. "I love my coworkers. They are like family. And if you love the people you work with, you can do anything."





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It's a game-changer according to Director of Nursing Vikki Howe, RN.

"They have much more freedom," Howe said of her patients. "They can work around their own schedule. We have some patients that work and they can kind of change their schedules. If they get home later or they have to go in earlier, they just get on earlier at night."

And it's thanks to New Direction that these patients - who range from their 20s to their 70s - can enjoy a level of freedom they never thought possible. New Direction offers In-Home Peritoneal Dialysis and Home Hemodialysis.

Leslie Whiles is the administrator of New Direction. With nearly 30 years of dialysis experience she's seen these patients flourish when they are able to take control of their lives again.

As one of the last remaining independent dialysis companies in Oklahoma, New Direction provides a host of dialysis services in patients' home.

She likes the fact that being a smaller company allows New Direction to be more nimble and responsive when it comes to client concerns.

Whiles said New Direction staff will go to a patient's home to draw their labs. If they have mobility issues staff can train them in their home or at the clinic.

"We don't want them to stress out," Whiles said. "We'll come to them. That's what we do."

Howe worked for two of the largest dialysis companies in the world before she met Whiles and came to work for New Direction.

"It's a lot more impersonal," Howe said of working for larger companies. "You see your patient and you love your patient to a T but you don't know your upper bosses as much. You get policies and you don't understand as much as why you are doing what you are doing."

"With an independent company you are one-on-one with your bosses. You are involved in making policies. You are involved in the why."

Peritoneal dialysis (PD) is the most common method of home dialysis. While many dialysis patients in the United States go to a dialysis center for hemodialysis three times a week for about four hours per treatment, PD offers more flexibility by allowing patients to dialyze wherever they may be - at home, at work or on vacation. Benefits include: greater flexibility and freedom in treatment schedule, fewer dietary restrictions than in-center hemodialysis, and fewer negative side effects (such as nausea, vomiting, cramping, and weight gain) than in-center hemodialysis.

Home Hemodialysis (HHD) allows a patient to maintain a more



(Left to right) Janie Wiggley, Vikki Howe, RN and Craig Bailey at New Directions Home Dialysis give dialysis patients new freedom.

streamline therapy without causing interruptions to the lifestyle or work schedule of a patient. Additionally, as a result of recent research, it has been proven to increase quality outcomes and patient survival by two times that of typical in center therapies.

There are two types of home hemodialysis, short daily and traditional. One of the major benefits of Home Hemodialysis is that treatment schedules can be tailored to a patient's specific health condition and lifestyle.

Short daily home hemodialysis is generally performed four to seven times a week for two to three hours per session. Traditional home hemodialysis is very similar to in-center hemodialysis.

Traditional Home Hemodialysis treatments are generally performed three times a week for four or more hours per session. These sessions can be altered to fit the patients' individual needs.

Howe swore she would never work in chronic dialysis. That was before she met Whiles.

"I thought it would be very depressing to see a patient three times a week. When I got involved it was totally the opposite. You feel like you really have an impact and get to really know them. You can really have an impact on their whole life. They see you more than they see anyone else."

"I don't think a lot of patients out there realize they have a choice," Howe said. "I didn't (know) before. A lot of patients have a tendency to be told and automatically signed up for a clinic. But the patient really does have a choice as to where they dialyze."

Howe met Whiles through Sooner Acute Dialysis, which specializes in inpatient dialysis in a hospital setting.

She had never worked for an independent before. Now she wonders how she ever did anything else.

"I was looking for a little more personal touch," Howe said. "I was looking for more flexibility and I was looking for a change."

And now her and her patients have more freedom.

 **new direction**
HOME DIALYSIS

Norman Regional nurses a model in changing cardiovascular care

From the moment you dialed 911 with chest pain to the ensuing ambulance ride all the way through your cardiac intervention, hospital stay, and your eventual discharge, wouldn't you want everyone along the way to be working for you?

Wouldn't you demand it?

That's the driving force behind Norman Regional Health System's Cardiovascular Services. And it's up to Brittni McGill, MSN, RN, CCRN, to make sure every department not only works together but works seamlessly to focus on the patient.

As Cardiovascular Service Line Director, McGill is at the forefront of Norman Regional's battle against cardiovascular disease - Oklahoma's No. 1 killer.

The eight-year NRH veteran began working at the hospital through a nurse externship program her senior year of nursing school. From there she found herself finding opportunity after opportunity at the municipal hospital.

"They were looking for someone to spearhead the vision and direct the future of all of our cardiology patients," McGill said of her current role.

Heart disease is the number one cause of death in Oklahomans, both men and women.

In 2013 Norman Regional's HealthPlex hospital was the first in the Oklahoma City metro to receive Chest Pain Center Accreditation from the Society of Cardiovascular Patient Care, an international organization that focuses on transforming cardiovascular care.

In order to be certified, hundreds of outcome measures and quality metrics must not only meet but exceed national standards.

Hospitals that have received SCPC accreditation have achieved a higher level of expertise in dealing with patients who arrive with symptoms of a heart attack. They emphasize the importance of standardized diagnostic and treatment programs that provide more efficient and effective evaluation as well as more appropriate and rapid treatment of patients with chest pain and other heart attack symptoms.

They also serve as a point of entry into the healthcare system to evaluate and treat other medical problems, and they help to promote a healthier lifestyle in an attempt to reduce the risk factors for heart attack.



Brittni McGill, MSN, RN, CCRN, is a driving force behind integrating Norman Regional Health System's Cardiovascular Services.

Norman Regional's HealthPlex has also received the 2016 Women's Choice Award as one of America's Best Hospitals for Heart Care. This evidence-based designation is the only heart care award that identifies the country's best healthcare institutions based on criteria that considers female patient satisfaction, clinical excellence, and what women say they want from a hospital.

"There's always opportunity to be better so the entire program encompasses quality and how you drive excellence in each of these areas," McGill said.

To patients this means that processes are in place that meet strict criteria aimed at:

- Reducing the time from onset of symptoms to diagnosis and treatment
- Treating patients more quickly during the critical window of time when the integrity of the heart muscle can be preserved
- Monitoring patients when it is not certain that they are having a heart attack to ensure that they are not sent home too quickly or needlessly admitted to the hospital

"There's so much we can do for these patients and you want to be able to provide all the care and offer those services," McGill said. "You have to be able to connect various areas within the system to respond."

And the hospital turned to one of their top nurses to coordinate it all.

"Those things collectively require engagement, collaboration and teamwork," McGill said, noting the health system is putting nurses at the forefront of the initiative. "Nurses are the fabric of who we are. 'As a leader, it's so important that we serve those that serve others.'"

The initiative comes at a time when hospitals are being asked to take on an increased complexity of patient care.

McGill says the health system's nursing leadership and administration has focused on a Triple Aim Initiative approach that revolves around increasing efficiencies, decreasing operating costs and enhancing the patient experience.

"I think it's very important to have a clinician background, mindset and experience," McGill said. "There are days where I wear my scrubs and do patient care. When you make decisions from a certain level it's so important to know how they will impact front-line staff."

"Our people are our most prized asset and we need to invest our time in them."



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Rolling Hills provides hope, health

Rolling Hills Hospital Chief Operating Officer and Chief Nursing Officer Peggy Huey, MSN, RN likes to give young nurses a piece of advice.

No matter what field of nursing they choose to go into they'll be dealing with psychiatric nursing.

With nearly 40 years in nursing it's something she's embraced.

That's why she loves going to work every day at Rolling Hills in Ada. And she enjoys watching a nursing staff of nearly 40 deliver the best in psychiatric care.

"We strive to give the best care that we can," Huey said. "I can truthfully say when the opportunity arose to become the chief operating officer and chief nursing officer I was so impressed by the people who work here. They are caring and do a wonderful job."

For nearly 30 years now, Ada's Rolling Hills Hospital has helped Oklahomans dealing with mental health challenges.

Rolling Hills Hospital has been a leader in providing behavioral healthcare treatment since 1988. Since that time, Rolling Hills has remained steadfast in offering the most optimal level of inpatient treatment possible to adolescents, adults, and seniors who are struggling with such conditions as depression, Alzheimer's disease, behavioral issues, addiction, and co-occurring disorders.

An experienced team of psychiatrists, psychologists, nurses, licensed therapists, social workers, certified nurse aids, mental health technicians, recreational therapists, and

other healthcare professionals work diligently together to ensure that every patient need is met and that the time they spend with us is a pleasant and comfortable one.

At Rolling Hills Hospital, the mission is to provide superior behavioral healthcare services to the people, communities, and hospitals served.

Staff adhere to core values of integrity, respect, honesty, and fairness and pride themselves on the fact patients are treated with the level of care they would want for their own family members.

Huey says the center recently opened up a new residential treatment center for adolescents.

Psychiatric nursing can get a bad rap. But witnessing it first-hand still amazes Huey.

"Nurses that think they're going to lose all their skills are wrong," Huey said. "You keep your skills up because I'll be honest with you, it's the nurses who save patient's lives here."

Rolling Hills nurses operate with a large level of autonomy. It's a thrilling experience.

"Our RNs are charge nurses," Huey says. "They run the unit and are responsible for the safety of the patient at all time and make sure the LPNs and techs under them are doing a good job."

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Rolling Hills would like to say a special "Thank You" to our Psychiatric Nurses!

Psych Nursing is a niche that takes a dedicated person. From working with individuals and families, to groups and even communities, you make an impact. Your kindness and understanding is important to our program and to our patients. We see the kind of dramatic difference psychiatric interventions can produce and are so glad to have you as part of our team.

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OSU Medical growing to serve patients, nurses

Oklahoma State University Medical Center (OSUMC) managed by Mercy is the largest osteopathic teaching hospital in the nation, but that doesn't mean the facility isn't continuing to grow, unveiling new systems to improve patient care.

OSUMC has committed to giving nurses the tools they need to grow their practice and deliver world-class care in a changing healthcare environment.

Joy Upshaw, chief nursing officer at OSUMC says the hospital is rolling out a number of exciting programs geared toward growing and retaining quality nurses to continue OSUMC's legacy of patient care.

"When we're hiring new nurses, at OSUMC we are never looking for someone who is going to just do their 12-hour shift and go home," Upshaw said. "Great nurses are committed to making their environment a place for healing. That may mean serving on committees, doing research, educating and listening to families."

And that's why the official teaching hospital for the Oklahoma State University College of Osteopathic Medicine, a 2009 U.S. News and World Report Top Ranked Graduate School, is committed to growing its nurses.

The hospital offers a 5:1 nursing ratio on medical surgical floors as well as a floating charge nurse.

OSUMC is unveiling a new RN nursing residency program. The six-month program will begin its first class July 11.

"The Residency program is designed to transition the graduate nurse to a nurse at the bedside," said Upshaw. "The program provides a variety of continued learning for the new nurse which will enable a successful transition from the school to practice."

In March, OSU opened a new observation unit with the goal to stabilize patients for discharge home or monitor for possible admission in the hospital. A typical stay ranges from eight to 23 hours.

Benefits include: •Improved quality of patient care •Shorter lengths of stay •More efficient patient flow •Decreased readmission rates

OSU Medical is also home to Oklahoma's top ranked Wound Care and Hyperbarics Clinic and has been named a Highest Rated Emergency Department for Patient Satisfaction. OSU Mobile Cardiology is Oklahoma's first and only traveling cardiac unit that offers cardiac diagnostic testing to a variety of hospitals in rural communities throughout Oklahoma.

Upshaw said the hospital's Press-Ganey scores continue to improve as OSUMC focuses on nurse communication.

"We began our journey to improve overall patient satisfaction because our patients come first," Upshaw said. "They have plenty of other options for health care in Tulsa and we want our patients to continue to choose OSUMC. Our nurses play an essential role in transforming the health care system as it relates to how hospitals are graded through Press Ganey."

For more than 40 years, OSUMC has served as the teaching hospital for medical students training at OSU Center for Health Sciences (formerly called the Oklahoma College of Osteopathic Medicine and Surgery). Over those four decades, more than 2,000 physicians, many of which still practice in Oklahoma, have been trained.

Together with Mercy, OSUMC is dedicated to cultivating and promoting the health and well-being of the community and integrating this commitment into quality patient care that is provided each day.



Nurses at OSU Medical enjoy a 5:1 patient ratio on medical surgical floors.

Heartland CPR still a lifesaver for nurses

Chelsea Hixson grew up lifeguarding at an Oklahoma City neighborhood pool. Parents trusted her to be there for their children when lives were on the line.

Even though she's more than a few years removed from that summertime job, Hixson is still serving as a lifesaver for thousands of Oklahoma nurses working for Heartland CPR.

Heartland CPR's life-saving skills are now in demand year-round for nurses who need to earn their BLS, ACLS or PALS certification or recertification.

She is one of several employed by Ginger and Brian Davis, who started Heartland CPR more than a decade ago.

Brian's informative yet fun approach to training makes the difference. Now an EMS Chief for Edmond Fire, he continues to make sure Heartland's instructors are engaging when they teach how to save a life.

The Davises have built Heartland CPR into a successful business that revolves around providing life-saving skills in a fun, friendly environment.

Heartland CPR offers courses in CPR, AED, First Aid, Basic Life Support (BLS) for Healthcare Providers, Advanced Cardiovascular Life Support (ACLS), Pediatric Advanced Life Support (PALS) as well the

addition of Pet First Aid + CPR.

Flexibility and customer service drive Heartland.

Ginger coordinates with individual travel nurses and travel nursing agencies who appreciate that Heartland provides training in multiple disciplines in a single weekend, and even have arranged with a nearby luxury hotel which offers discount accommodations to out-of-town overnight customers.

And it never fails that nurses need Heartland the most at the end of every month.

"It's terribly busy," Hixson said of those final few days. "We have people calling all hours of the day and night, emailing and texting. It is absolutely crazy."

But that's what Heartland specializes in, getting medical professionals the training and documentation they need when they need it.

One in-demand course is the S.T.A.T. program which stands for Sequentially Timed Accelerated Training. Nurses can renew the entire BLS, ACLS and PALS certification suite in a weekend.

Despite the demand, classes are limited to 10 people each. It's a Heartland tenet to insure the quality of the training and the ability for students to ask questions and truly grasp the material.

To keep up, Heartland simply adds more classes. And the company's ability to deliver training wherever the client needs it has made Heartland a nurse favorite.

From doctors to dental

assistants to oil field companies, Heartland can put together a training package that fits the need.

"We love to be there for people," Hixson said. "They seem to love it. We've had customers coming back for years now. They love how welcoming we are."

So the next time you realize your certification is about to expire, give Heartland a call.

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Bridges Skilled Rehabilitation at Grace Living Center Bethany offers compassionate rehabilitation services

Bridges Skilled Rehabilitation at Grace Living Center Bethany is a place where love finds ways to traverse limitations. It endures in simple yet profound ways that shine with grace.

Patients leaving a hospital often choose Bridges for the continued rehabilitation services they need to achieve their personal best. They want to go back home and continue with their daily living, said Esther Mofor-Tawo, RN, a Charge Nurse at Bridges in Bethany. "Those that are safe and those that have family members to take care, they get to go home with home health," said Mofor-Tawo, who studied to become a registered nurse at Platt College. A native of Cameroon, she joined the Grace Living Center team in 2008.

Mofor-Tawo works with an excellent crew at Bridges during the 3-11 p.m. shift. They flourish with the compassionate services they offer with the skill needed in a family oriented setting. Nurses work as a team and offer help regardless of their assigned hallway.

"You don't have to tell your aide or the other nurses, 'Can you do this or can you do that?'" she said.

A former school teacher, she switched careers to nursing when she came to the United States because she knew how her parents used to feel when they were sick in Africa.

"I wish I knew what to do for them," Mofor-Tawo said. "But when I got here I said this is an opportunity for me to do nursing, to be able to help parents back home in case things are happening."

Mofor-Tawo smiled when talking about meeting all of the people she has helped at Bridges.

"Some of them are very nice and they get to be like family members," she said. "We get to know them. I had a patient - he called me Queen Esther - and he



Esther Mofor-Tawo, RN, a Charge Nurse at Bridges Skilled Rehabilitation at Grace Living Center Bethany, feels enriched at the end of the day knowing that she has given her all to patient care.

kept on asking me right in front of his family and wife, 'Are you going to attend my funeral?' Then he wasn't even on hospice. So I promised in front of him that I will be there. And when he passed away, I was there at the funeral. But the wife and the kids, they were so happy."

Nurses get to feel their patients' pain, Mofor-Tawo said. There are times when family members cry and Mofor-Tawo will also cry with them, she said.

"We really get to be attached with some a lot," she added.

She works with therapists and other staff members. A therapist may come to her when they notice a sick patient needs evaluation. Mofor-Tawo said she has notices that when some patients are about to go home, they begin acting differently as if they want to stay at Bridges.

"So with suggestions like that we do everything to be on the safe side," Mofor-Tawo. "We will do some labs and assess the patient to really know if truly they are just acting out."

At the end of the day she will explain the lab work assessments to her patients to boost their confidence in leaving the rehab center.

"You see them coming back to themselves," she said. "You cannot just from the beginning say, 'I don't think there is anything wrong with you.'"

Mofor-Tawo feels good about something positive each day she leaves her working shift. She always has a positive mind moving forward to reach optimal care for every patient.

"I never walk into this building having a negative thought," Mofor-Tawo said. "I always have a positive mind. Nothing stresses me out. I always walk away from stress. I am the type of a nurse that I make sure everything is done and in the right way."

She knows that she has done everything possible to help, but not everyone will appreciate it, she said. But she makes families understand that when they entrust a loved one for care, they can go home with confidence that their mother or father is in good hands, she said.

"We are there and we are there to do our best," she said. "Understand that we are human and we are liable to make mistakes, but to error is human but to forgive is divine."

"But I come to work everyday knowing that I'm going to put in my best and that is what I do," Mofor-Tawo said.

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Sooner Acute Dialysis meets nurses needs

Working in Lawton at a facility treating chronic dialysis patients, Elizabeth Teague, RN, always wanted to work at an acute setting but her company wouldn't let her.

Teague knew there had to be something better than the monotony she saw day in and day out and it just so happened that a mutual friend introduced her to Leslie Whiles, administrator of Sooner Acute Dialysis Services in Norman.

She knew it would be the beginning of a beautiful friendship.

Whiles not only hired Teague but took her under her wing and her nursing career to a new level.

"The hours were always different. You went into the clinic and you saw new people every time and you got to work with the whole hospital staff," said Teague, while working in her office at Norman Regional Hospital. "I like to see the whole body process and not just the kidneys three days a week."

Teague finally was introduced to a niche where she thrived.

"I like the autonomy," Teague said. "I like working by myself but I also like working with my techs and the doctor. Any problem I have I can get hold of them right away."

Teague's days are always different - and she loves it. Continuous renal replacement therapy, hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis now fill Teague's days.

It's a different patient and different floor every day and her nursing career is revitalized.

"In the acute care setting they really need you," Teague said. "They can't breathe or their potassium is really high. They are appreciative of it. It's life or death. If you don't get it, you won't live."

Four full-time RNs and two part-time nurses work for Sooner in Norman. Two more full-time nurses and one part-time nurse are working in Lawton.

For Teague, she found more than just an unexpected career change. She found a friend.

"She is like the mom," Teague said of Whiles. "You don't go through HR you deal with her. She takes care of your problems first-hand. You don't go through a chain of command."

"Whatever we need she takes care of it."

It's been six years now since Teague first met Whiles and the same nurses who trained her are still with Sooner Acute Dialysis today.

"A larger company, they don't really care if you have a doctors appointment," Teague said. "They don't care if you have family. She does. I love that about her."

It's this type of personalized service that Whiles delivers to her clients at Sooner Acute Dialysis as well. As one of the few remaining independent dialysis companies in Oklahoma, Sooner Acute has more flexibility to meet clients' needs.

The company is mobile and can travel to facilities with a small need or a daily demand.



Nurses like Elizabeth Teague, RN, serve patients in an inpatient capacity for Sooner Acute Dialysis Services.

"We do not have an outside clinic that we serve," said Whiles, who carries nearly 30 years of dialysis experience with her. "Our service is to the hospital. The hospital is our customer. Because we are an independent unit we can tailor our programs to the needs of the hospital and the patients they take care of."

"Their patients are our concern."

The acute dialysis market is dominated by a few larger players who mainly specialize in Chronic Dialysis. Large companies are buying up smaller ones left and right and working with doctors who only refer to them.

Whiles is proud that Sooner Acute Dialysis has had no deficiencies from VHA or the Joint Commission for seven years running.

She likes the fact that being a smaller company allows Sooner Acute to be more nimble and responsive when it comes to client concerns.

But in Whiles' eyes it all comes down to people like Teague

"My nurses are the best in the region," Whiles said proudly. "If you hire the best everything else falls into place. We would not be a company if it wasn't for these nurses. They know their business and they're very good at what they do."

Whiles only hires nurses with a minimum of one-year of continuous chronic dialysis experience. ICU experience is preferred and critical thinking skills also must be finely-tuned.

It's a commitment to both patient and nurse that she insists on.

And for Teague, it's a breath of fresh air as she helps the neediest dialysis patients every day.





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David Hackett, RN

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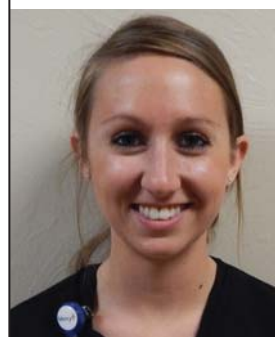
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"I play competitive tennis in Oklahoma City. I'm very competitive and I like to be outside."



Mitzi Savage, RN

"During my leisure time I still have a couple of good friends I like to hang out with, watch all the Thunder games and play with my dog."



Nikki Braaten, RN

Salute to Nurses



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Assumes responsibility and accountability for a group of patients for a designated time frame and provide care to these patients via therapeutic use of self, nursing interventions, treatments, modalities, the therapeutic environment and interdisciplinary collaboration.

Shift Availability: 7:00pm-7:00am

Graduate of an accredited school of nursing program. Registered Nurse with current Oklahoma licensure. Current BLS certification required at the time of hire & ACLS certification within 18 months of hire.

OHH offers a progressive benefits package starting the first day of employment. This includes but is not limited to health, dental, vision, disability, life insurance, 401(k), and paid time off.

To apply go to:
www.OKHeart.com/careers

OKLAHOMA HEART HOSPITAL CONSIDERS ALL QUALIFIED APPLICANTS INCLUDING PROTECTED VETERAN OR DISABILITY STATUS ANDER

140 GENERAL NURSING

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are now hiring an Licensed Practical Nurse for the 3-11 shift and Certified Nursing Assistants / Certified Medical Assistants on the 3-11 shift.

Please apply in person at The United Methodist Health Care at 2316 W. Modelle, Clinton, OK

We are taking applications for Licensed Practical Nurses and Certified Nurse Assistants.

Heavener Manor is taking applications for LPNs and CNAs. Come by and talk to Wyvonne Wright, DON. 204 W. 1st Street, Heavener, OK. No phone calls please.

140 GENERAL NURSING

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are looking for a Certified Nursing Assistant days and A Certified Nursing Assistant for weekend doubles. We also have an Licensed Practical Nurse open for 10 to 6 shift. If you are tired of not being a team, come work for us.

WILLOW HAVEN Nursing Home. We are looking for a C.N.A. days and A.C.N.A. for weekend doubles. We also have an L.P.N. open for 10 to 6 shift. If you are tired of not being a team, come work for us. We are a small home with a home like atmosphere. 1301 N 5th, Tonkawa, OK 580-628-2529

Certified Nurse Aides and Certified Medication Aides can earn up to \$11.00 to \$11.50 an hour. All shifts available.

IMMEDIATE ON site training for DDCA's at Billings Fairchild Center. Certified Nurse Aides and Certified Medication Aides can earn up to \$11.00 to \$11.50 an hour. All shifts available. 202 E Maple Billings, OK. Call Doris McAbee at 580-725-3533 Equal Employment Opportunity

We Are Looking For Optometric Assistant. Duties include front desk, pre-testing, dispensing frames/contact lens, and billing. 30 hours/week. Must have excellent grammar skills. Will train. Apply in person: 305 E. Broadway, Sand Springs, Oklahoma.

We are hiring Certified Nursing Assistants - all shifts. Kitchen aides. PARKS EDGE NURSING & REHAB*CNAs - all shifts*Kitchen aides. Apply 5115 E 51st St in Tulsa, OK

140 GENERAL NURSING

Seeking RN DON
Must be graduate of accredited school of nursing with current RN license. Experience with Nursing Home Regulations. Strong leadership & managerial skills. Competitive Pay & Benefits! Stop by 104 SE 4th St, Tuttle, OK, or call 405-381-3363. Ask for Lisa at tuttleadministrator@swltc.com

We are seeking caring and dependable people to work in the homes of elderly and disabled clients in Lawton, Fletcher, Apache, Elgin, Randett, Devol, Frederick, and Walters area.

Gentiva Health Services is seeking caring and dependable people to work in the homes of elderly and disabled clients in Lawton, Fletcher, Apache, Elgin, Randett, Devol, Frederick, & Walters area. Will assist with preparing meals, shopping, personal care, errands, light housekeeping, and other assigned duties. We offer flexible day, evening, and weekend shifts. Must be at least 18 years of age with a clean criminal background. MUST have reliable transportation. No certifications or prior experience required. Fax resume to 580-248-9995. Please contact us by phone at (580) 248-9998 for any questions. To apply in person please visit us at 2210 W. Gore Blvd, Suite 3, Lawton, OK, 73501. E.O.E. M/F/D/V

We have positions open for Registered Nurse Case Manager and Licensed Practical Nurse Hospice Nurse.

Hospice Nurses. Hospice of Green Country, the only non-profit United Way supported hospice in Tulsa, has positions open for RN Case Manager and LPN Hospice Nurse. OK nursing license required. Previous hospice experience and Allscripts software a plus. Qualified candidates who desire a focus on excellent patient care, please send resume to fax 918-747-2573. 1120 S. Boston, Suite 200 o Tulsa, OK 74119. EOE

Community Hospital North Campus Opening in 2016 - Now Hiring!

Great opportunity to work with a growing healthcare company with excellent benefits, including great employer matching 401K, Christmas bonus and the opportunity for quarterly bonuses!

- HPI COMMUNITY HOSPITAL**
- RN, Med Surg - FT (North and South Campus) - \$5000 Sign on Bonus for Full Time Night Positions
 - RN Circulator, Surgery - Full Time (CH North Campus) - \$5000 Sign on Bonus (Min. of 1 year experience)
 - Surgical Tech, Surgery - Full Time (CH North and South Campus) \$2000 Sign on Bonus (Minimum of 1 year experience)
 - Sterile Processing Techs, Full Time and PRN (CH North and South Campus positions)
 - Patient Care Techs - Full Time (CH North Campus)
 - Unit Secretary, FT and PRN positions (CH North Campus) - Day and Night
 - Unit Secretary - Full Time Days - (CH South Campus)
 - Patient Access Representatives - FT (North and South Campus)
 - RN, Pain Management, FT and PRN (CH South Campus)

HPI NORTHWEST SURGICAL HOSPITAL

- RN, Med Surg - PRN
- Surgical Tech, Surgery - Full Time \$2000 Sign on Bonus (Min. 1 yr exp)
- Patient Care Techs - Full Time
- RN Circulator, Surgery - Full Time \$5000 Sign on Bonus (Min. 1 yr exp)

Visit us on our website at
www.communityhospitalokc.com or www.nwsurgicalokc.com for **NWSH positions. Fax resumes to (405) 378-3991 or forward resumes to: jobs@chcares.com or call (405) 606-2600**

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Career Opportunities

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or email ads to advertising@okcnursingtimes.com

Oklahoma's NURSING TIMES

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 - Labor & Delivery RN's
 - Emergency Dept RN's
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CONTACT JESSICA AT 405-610-8101
JESSICA.WRAY@MYALLIANCEHEALTH.COM
www.alliancehealthmidwest.com

AllianceHealth Midwest is directly owned by a partnership that proudly includes physician owners, including certain members of the hospital's medical staff. EOE. Minorities/Females/Veterans/Disabled

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are taking applications for the following positions:
 Nursing Center:
 Licensed Practical Nurse - 11pm - 7am / Part-time. Certified Nursing Assistant - 11pm - 7am / Full-time. Cook - Full-time. Independent Living Housekeeper - Monday-Friday - Full-time. Part-time Wait Staff
 Apply in person at Golden Oaks Retirement Village 5801 N. Oakwood Enid, OK 73703

140 GENERAL NURSING

Join Us For A Great Future!
 • Physical Therapist - Weekends
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 • Post-Surgical Registered Nurse
 • Surgery Registered Nurse
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 Explore Career Opportunities In Surgery!
 Experience the OSH difference! fax resume at 918-477-5991. Oklahoma Surgical Hospital Human Resources 81st and Lewis, City Plex Towers, Tulsa, Oklahoma

140 GENERAL NURSING

We are Accepting Applications For:
 • Director of Nursing • Licensed Practical Nurse - Evenings
 • Certified Nursing Assistant - Days, Evenings, Weekends • PRN - all shifts and roles
 University Village Retirement Center 8555 S. Lewis, Tulsa, OK 74137. Equal Employment Opportunity

We are looking for hardworking weekend Certified Nursing Assistants, Certified Medical Assistants, and Licensed Practical Nurses to come and join our team.
 TEN OAKS We are looking for hardworking weekend CNAs, CMAs, and LPNs to come and join our team. Please apply at the community at 3610 SE Huntington Circle, Lawton, OK. No phone calls. Equal Employment Opportunity

All Shifts - Will Train - Nurse Aide and Certified Nurse Aides
 The Village Health Care Center, 1709 South Main Street, Broken Arrow, OK, 918-251-2626



TURN KEY HEALTH STAFF NURSE

Turn Key Health Clinics is currently looking for dependable and self-motivated LPNs to fill multiple statewide OK positions. Turn Key Health Clinics is the leading, local correctional health provider in Oklahoma. Our employees are afforded the opportunity to utilize their nursing and medical skills to their fullest capacity in a safe, secure environment. We provide flexible schedules, excellent pay, and benefit plans for our employees. Contact Deborah Graumann 405-596-1733 or email dgraumann@turnkeyhealthclinics.com

140 GENERAL NURSING

Exciting Expansion! Adding two NEW positions
 MDS-Skilled nursing and we will train you Administrative QA Nurse-Admit papers for skilled admits Monday to Friday 10am-6pm. Please call Gayle Thorpe 580-402-1734. 1119 East Owen K. Garriott Enid, Oklahoma 73701

WE ARE LOOKING FOR STRONG LICENSED PRACTICAL NURSES FOR 2-10 SHIFT. WE OFFER A LONGEVITY BONUS OF \$1,000.00 FOR ONE YEAR OF SERVICE, AND EVERY YEAR AFTER.
 SHAWN MANOR is looking for strong L.P.N.'s for 2-10 shift. We offer a longevity bonus of \$1000.00 for 1 year of service, and every year after. We have insurance, and P.T.O. We are currently with new management. Apply in person at Shawn Manor 2024 Turner Rd Ponca City, Ok 74604

Licensed Practical Nurses Full-time/ Days
 Licensed Practical Nurses Part-time/ Days and Nights
 Certified Nursing Assistants Full-time/ Nights (with shift differential)
 Summers Health Services seeking to fill the following positions:
 Licensed Practical Nurses Full-time/Days
 Licensed Practical Nurses Part-time/ Days and Nights
 Certified Nursing Assistants Full-time/ Nights (with shift differential)
 Apply in person at 119 N 6th, Okeene, OK or call Cindy at 580-822-4441 We offer competitive wages.

140 GENERAL NURSING

Nurse, Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses. We are now accepting applications for Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses Per Diem positions in Behavioral Health and Neuro-Rehab Units.
 Experience preferred, but training provided to those interested. Please fax resume to Debbie Jones at (918) 438-8016 or apply at Brookhaven Hospital, 201 S. Garnett Rd., Tulsa, OK 74128. (918) 438-4257. Equal Employment Opportunity

We are looking for self-motivated individuals to work with people with developmental disabilities in a group home setting.
 HTS STAFF Expanding agency looking for self-motivated individuals to work with people with developmental disabilities in a group home setting. This position requires a high school diploma or GED and a valid driver's license. Company paid training provided. Premium pay for fully trained HTS. Please apply at: Supported Community Lifestyles Enid, Inc. 2506 N. Jefferson Enid, OK 73701 580-234-0313



Want to put your heart into a challenging and rewarding medical career in Oklahoma?

Registered Nurse, RN - Surgery One Team One Focus

Responsible for direct patient care in the assigned department and as needed in other areas. Actively participates in the routine checks of all equipment used in the Surgery Department. Collaborates with the Director, Manager and all other team members in idea sharing, utilization of resources, as well as assists in the cross training of the staff when assigned. Some weekend shifts required as needed.

- Graduate of an accredited nursing program.
- Registered Nurse with current state licensure, Current BLS required.
- Minimum of one (1) year of continuous surgery experience preferred.

OHH offers a progressive benefits package starting the first day of employment. This includes but is not limited to health, dental, vision, disability, life insurance, 401(k), & paid time off.

To apply go to:

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204 REGISTERED NURSE

907 South Detroit, Suite 905 Tulsa, OK 74120 In Home Health Services At this time we are accepting resumes for Full Time RN/Case Mgrs. Experience in the Home Health Field is preferred. For more info, about the position call 918-592-1221 or toll free 1-855-592-1221. EOE

204 REGISTERED NURSE

RN Case Manager!
 Cypress Home Care of Hugo, OK, is accepting applications for an RN Case Manager! \$1000.00 Sign On Bonus! We are on the GROW! Apply in person- complete an application at: 2816 E. Jackson St. Hugo, OK 74743. 580-317-9533.

Oklahoma's NURSING TIMES

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