

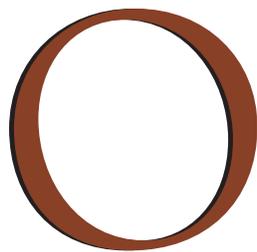
“The essential part of creativity is not being afraid to fail.”

—Edwin Land, inventor and co-founder
of the Polaroid Corporation

The attending nurse

an innovative new role for nurses

The role of attending nurse is just one strategy we’re employing to deliver more integrated, patient-centered, evidence-based care while preserving the highest standards of quality and safety.



Of all the interventions being implemented as part of the roll-out of innovation units, the attending nurse role seems to have generated the most curiosity. The role of attending nurse is just one strategy we’re employing to deliver more integrated, patient-centered, evidence-based care while preserving the highest standards of quality and safety. Because so many people have expressed an interest, following are *some* components of this new role. The attending nurse:

- facilitates care with the entire healthcare team. He/she is a consistent contact for patients, families, and the healthcare team throughout the patient’s care
- develops and coordinates the team’s strategic clinical plan for the duration of the inpatient hospitalization
- works eight-hour days, five days a week to promote continuity and visibility
- ensures that the team and the process of care sustains a continuous, caring relationship with patients and families that may begin before admission and continue after discharge
- develops a comprehensive patient care assessment and plan using the principles of Relationship-Based Care
- facilitates a comprehensive care plan among all members of the healthcare team
- integrates all members of the care team into the care of every patient
- identifies and uses best practices to promote patient- and family-centered care

- identifies and resolves barriers to promote seamless hand-overs, inter-disciplinary collaboration, and efficient patient throughput
- ensures, with attending physician, that patient care meets clinical standards
- develops and revises patient-care goals with the clinical team daily
- coordinates meetings for timely, clinical decision-making and optimal hand-overs across the continuum
- communicates with patients and families around the plan of care, answers questions, teaches, and coaches
- serves as a role model for inter-disciplinary problem-solving
- organizes care-team huddles which include the attending nurse and physician, house staff, and staff nurses
- meets with family on a continuous basis regarding the plan of care, disposition, goals of treatment, palliative care, end-of-life issues
- meets weekly with all members of the team to design, coordinate, and evaluate the plan of care

Unit-specific guidelines for the attending nurse role will be developed by each innovation unit individually regarding number of attending nurses, number of patients within the attending nurse responsibility, and specific desired outcomes to be achieved.

For more information about this new role, call The Norman Knight Nursing Center for Clinical & Professional Development at 6-3111.