

NEW KNOWLEDGE, INNOVATIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS

Resource Nurse Program Builds Med-Surg Excellence



Patient assessment and mock code simulations are an important part of the Resource Nurse Program.



Washington Health launched a Resource Nurse Program where specially trained critical care nurses serve as expert consultants for staff and patients, improving teamwork, clinical support, and emergency response on the medical-surgical (Med-Surg) units. Resource nurses serve as first responders for emergencies, effectively bridging the gap between the critical care units and Med-Surg floors. Their advanced assessment skills and calming presence during rapid responses and code blue events are impactful. While assisting in emergencies, they guide bedside nurses through each step, turning high-stress situations into valuable teaching moments.

Here are other ways resource nurses support the Med-Surg units:

- Lead mock code simulations where Med-Surg nurses practice communication, teamwork, and equipment use in a safe environment. This turns anxiety into preparedness and confidence during actual emergencies.
- Educate through “clinical capsules,” or short in-service sessions on topics like oxygen therapy and lessons learned from real cases. This helps keep bedside nurses updated on essential skills.
- Support the Deterioration Index (DI) project, a clinical nurse specialist-led initiative to identify patients at risk for clinical decline. Resource nurses assist staff in interpreting DI alerts, assessing patients early, and coordinating timely interventions.



Members of the Resource Nurse Program led by Erin Brooks, RN (second from left) and Shiny George, RN (fifth from left).

The Resource Nurse Program has strengthened collaboration, critical thinking, and nursing empowerment, building a more confident Med-Surg nursing community while improving patient safety and outcomes.