

Mary Kuncis, BSN, RN, CRRN

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OBJECTIVE

Established and experienced rehabilitation nurse seeking to disseminate knowledge, share best practices and promote professional development by speaking at the Florida State Association of Rehabilitation Nursing conference.

EDUCATION**Chamberlain College of Nursing**

Master of Science in Nursing, April 2012-on hold

Chicago, IL

University of Illinois at Chicago

Bachelor of Science in Nursing May 2008.

Chicago, IL

Harold Washington College

Associate in Arts

Chicago, IL

RELATED NURSING EXPERIENCE**Brooks Rehabilitation Hospital, 1/2023- Present**

Spinal cord injury rehabilitation nurse, 4R staff nurse

- Embraces the Brooks mission and vision to provide quality care to the inpatient population.
 - Passionate about patient care and education to prepare for discharge.
 - Works as a team with colleagues (nurses and therapists) to provide best patient care
 - Received multiple compliments/ Star cards/ Daisy nominations from patients and family about the care provided, dedication and professionalism
- Nursing Preceptor, 6/2023- present
 - New grad nurse
 - International nurse
 - Contact nurses
 - Experienced nurses
 - Nurses from other units
- Development of new documentation for bowel and bladder
- Spinal Cord Injury Programmatic
 - Representative for nursing for current unit
 - Rolling out new education for staff
 - Provided one to one SCI education to nurse educator of new SCI unit so that she could educate the staff properly. Developed powerpoint presentations and handouts for staff on bowel/ bladder, skin and SCI complications.
- Nursing Orientation starting 4/2024
 - Meditech trainer
- SCI patient education starting 4/2024
 - Weekly Bowel, Bladder and Skin education to patients with PT/ OT
- Staff bowel education
 - Discovered with a colleague that bowel programs were consistently being performed, and that there was a disconnect in staff education; worked with leadership to educate staff on proper bowel program administration.
 - Developed poster with Institute of Higher Learning for FSARN conference.
 - Abstract accepted to ARN conference
- Stakeholder with implementation of Brooks “Be-It” early intervention program and Director of Nursing.

- Clinical ladder, Level 3
- Rapid Response Team
- Professional Practice Council, co-chair
- Infection Prevention member
- Research Council member

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, 12/2020- 2/2021

Vaccination Clinic, Registered Nurse

- Vaccine administration
- Adverse reaction monitor
- Rapid response team

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, 09/2018-12/2022

Spinal Cord Innovation Center, Clinical Nurse Coordinator

- Possess strong leadership skills
- Code team leader- Participates in and provides guidance to staff in emergency situations on the unit
- Liaison between staff and manager
- Oversaw clinical care and supervised nursing activity on the unit
- Ensured efficient use of staffing resources to meet patient needs.
- Managed and communicated with staff during scheduled shifts
- Provided clinical support to patients, including monitoring responses to treatment plans
- Served as a resource on the unit
- Involvement with the interdisciplinary team to assure the best care for the patient
- Assisted Nurse Manager with designing and implementing quality improvement projects, audits, etc.
- Managed staff assignments and schedules
- Enforced patient satisfaction by reinforcing quality patient care
- Emphasized SRALab mission and vision
- Wound care expert
- Applied nursing research to clinical practice and participated in nursing research studies.
- Communicated effectively with patients, families, and staff to ensure a high level of patient satisfaction and to prevent or identify and resolve conflicts in a timely manner.
- Applied nursing research to clinical practice and participates in nursing research studies.
- Assisted in overseeing the MACU, medically advanced care unit, and assuring the monitoring of highly medically complex patients when they are transferred to this unit.
 - Assist with IV insertion
 - Phillips telemetry monitor trained.

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, formerly Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 02/2015-12/2022

RIC Academy, SCI Innovation Center Clinical Instructor

- Facilitator for nursing orientation in RIC and Shirley Ryan Ability Lab Academy
- Nurse/ PCT skills day facilitator
- Managed Spinal Cord Innovation Center staff ongoing education and maintenance of competencies
- Developed content for Interdisciplinary and Nursing Orientation for the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
- Facilitator for Charge Nurse Course and New Grad RN residency program
- Developed materials for training and performed training for updated Policies and Procedures, equipment, and hospital changes
- Oversaw summer nursing interns, summer 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
 - Scheduled interns for observational experiences throughout the hospital
 - Scheduled lectures for interns to attend
 - Coordinated graduation ceremony/ Case Study presentations

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab Hospital Move Planning Team, 2015-17

- Served as a guide and point of contact during General Orientation at Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
- Facilitator for interdisciplinary training and orientation for entire hospital staff

- Building tours
 - Unit orientation and layout
- Facilitator for orientation for the Spinal Cord Injury Innovation Center
 - Weekly education for staff prior to move date
 - Provided support for floors 21 and 22 before, during and after move date
- Team lead on many projects to prepare for the move to the Shirley Ryan Ability Lab
 - Activation team- Designed layout of inpatient units, patient rooms, call light system and escalation process, and Clinical Nurse Coordinator role
 - Standardization on inpatient units
 - Medication rooms
 - Nurses stations
 - Patient in-room supply areas
 - Equipment needs
 - Works closely with materials and logistics management to determine the equipment needs at the new and old facility to assure appropriate patient care
 - Facilitated the equipment move from the old facility to the new facility

Shirley Ryan Ability Lab, formerly Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago, 07/08-12/2022

Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation, Staff Nurse

- Demonstrated knowledge to develop interdisciplinary care plans for patients with spinal cord injuries, strokes, traumatic brain injuries, neurological diseases, and general disabilities
- Developed rapport with patients, while teaching them and their families' skills needed to re-gain independence and prepare them for a safe discharge
- Utilized communication and organizational skills to teach and care for patients
- Displayed compassion and empathy to patients
- Ventilator, diaphragmatic pacer and LVAD certification
- Code team; able to remain calm in times of critical need; obtained ACLS 2009
- Nursing student preceptor, 2010- 2018
- New Hire preceptor, 2010-2018
- Unit skin champion and wound expert
- Charge nurse, 2009-2018

Professional Development

- Student Nurses Association
 - President 09/2007-5/2008
 - Secretary 09/2006-09/2007
- Phi Theta Kappa, International Honor Society of two-year colleges, 1/2006
- Sigma Theta Tau, member, 09/2007
- Hines VA hospital, VALOR student, 06/2007-09/2007
- Certified Rehabilitation Registered Nurse (CRRN), 2010-present
- **At Shirley Ryan AbilityLab**
- House Supervisor, 2012- 2019
 - Assisted with staff and hospital wide matters after hours
- CPR instructor, 9/2017- present
- CPR and emergency management committee member
- Nurse Practice Council member, 2011-2020
 - Chair, 2016-17
- Infection Prevention
 - Interdisciplinary role model to foster a safe environment for colleagues, patients, and caregivers.
 - Involved with urinary tract infection prevention task force and assisted with UTI rate reduction
- Respiratory Committee member
- Involvement with multiple quality improvement projects
- Night Shift Council

- Developed council, 2018
 - Sponsor, 2018-2021
- Tracheostomy Unit Champion, 2015-present
 - Chair, 2021-present
- Professional Nurse Advancement Program
 - Level IV, 2010- 2020
 - Scholar Level, 2020-2022
 - Coach for Spinal Cord Innovation Center, 2010-2022
- Magnet Ambassador, 2009- 2021
 - Involved in two Magnet redesignation processes
 - Involved in writing stories for Magnet documentation for 2020 application
 - Team Lead for multiple stories for addressing quality outcomes
- Presenter at CRRN review class at SRALab, 9/2010-present
 - Focus on Spinal Cord Injury Rehabilitation
- Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN), member, 2011-present
- Northern Illinois Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (NIARN), member, 2010-2022
 - Board Member, 2021-2022
 - Secretary, 2022
 - Presenter to nursing students
- ARN conference poster presentation, A Retrospective Study on Urinary Tract Infections in an In-patient Rehabilitation Hospital Setting, 2013
- ARN conference poster presentation, The Key to Spinal Cord Injury Patient Education Success- Hot Topics, 2018
- ARN conference case study presentation, Creating a Care Plan for a Pregnant Woman with a New Traumatic Spinal Cord Injury, 2018
- Citi Training completion, 2018- present
- Involvement with multiple research projects
 - Spinal Cord Injury Hot Topics Program, 2019
 - Tracheostomy dressing change applicator, 2019
 - Tracheostomy decannulation stoma healing, 2020- 2022
- Article peer reviewer for Journal of Spinal Cord Injury Medicine, 2021
- Shirley Ryan Ability Lab External Academy
 - Workshop project for new SRALab facility in Abu Dhabi
 - Developed spinal cord injury curriculum for nurse orientation
 - How to care for a patient with a spinal cord injury
 - Managing complications with spinal cord injury patients
 - SCI conference- Interdisciplinary Approach to Bowel and Bladder Management, 2019
 - Co-facilitated with an occupational therapist
 - Southern Illinois SRALab alliance hospital training, 2020
 - Planning committee for one day spinal cord injury course
 - AbbVie Pharmaceutical Conference for Stroke and Spinal Cord Injury, 2021
 - Spinal cord injury case discussion
 - Moderated small group discussions with Allied Health for 45 individuals at AbbVie Pharmaceuticals to familiarize those about Allied Health and nursing roles for the SCI patient population

Awards

- UIC College of Nursing Dean's List, 2006-08
- National Dean's List, 9/2004-2008
- Student Nurse Professionalism Award, recipient at University of Illinois at Chicago, 2008
- University Honors, cum laude, 2008
- RIC Nancy B Holt Nursing Excellence Award, recipient: 2011, 2021; nominee 2012, 2013, 2015, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022
- The Shirley Ryan Ability Lab Founder's Award, nominee 2018, 2019

- Daisy Award nominee x 4, 2020-22, 2023

Hines VA Hospital, 6/2007-9/2007

Hines, IL

Acute Spinal Cord Unit Student Nurse Tech- VALOR Program

- Utilized my fundamental and Med-Surg skills to care for spinal cord patients
- Gained new knowledge through seminars and classes
- Managed patient care for up to four patients/ shift.

International Scholar Laureate Program 5/2007-6/2007

South Africa

Delegation on Nursing

- Chosen from nursing students from throughout the country
- Visited urban hospitals and rural clinics through the health care
- Experienced primary health care in a challenging health care system
- Received extensive training with HIV/ AIDS patients

Research Articles

- American Journal of Infection Control: A Retrospective Study on Urinary Tract Infections in a In-patient Rehabilitation Hospital Setting, 2014
- Rehabilitation Nursing Journal: New Device Makes Tracheostomy Dressing Changes Easier and More Comfortable, 2020
- Currently working on article on research project for stoma closure after tracheostomy decannulation