



TRANSITIONS

A NEWSLETTER FOR STUDENT NURSES | SPRING 2011



Lisa Stump, Vice President and
Epic Project Leader

Last autumn, **Yale New Haven Health System** launched a multi-year initiative to implement **Epic**: a state-of-the-art electronic health record system that combines all available patient information into a single database that improves caregivers' ability to review information and treat patients. When fully implemented in 2014, Epic – which is currently utilized by more than 200 healthcare centers nationwide – will enable YNHHS hospitals, clinics, medical groups and affiliated community practices to integrate and share patient information across the continuum of care and services.

AN EPIC TRANSFORMATION

YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM LAUNCHES EPIC ELECTRONIC HEALTH RECORD PROJECT

In its most basic form, an electronic health record (EHR) is the digital equivalent to a paper chart — one that follows patients across all inpatient and outpatient settings, and even to patients' home computers. EHRs may contain anything from physician notes and lists of prescriptions and allergies to digital records of x-rays and other pertinent medical information. As a software system, EHRs also offers built-in alerts to flag clinical data as well as potential drug interactions.

Epic will transform the healthcare culture throughout Yale New Haven Health System. Every medical experience will be enhanced, streamlining the sharing of test results and diagnoses between providers while

eliminating redundant exams. Healthcare professionals across the network will be linked together through shared information, freeing them to focus on patient care rather than paper trails. In addition, patients will have the ability to track their care from home through a secure patient portal offering access to medical records and test results, while also allowing them to schedule appointments, pay bills and communicate with health providers.

Epic implementation will begin at Greenwich Hospital in Spring 2012, followed by Yale-New Haven Hospital and then Bridgeport Hospital.

“ The scope of this project is enormous and its impact is far beyond a traditional information technology project. This isn't about computers; it's about clinicians defining the workflow and tools that will enable better patient care.”

— Lisa Stump, Vice President and Epic
Project Leader



A Letter from the Publisher



Dear Nursing Students,

I hope you're enjoying a good semester and are as excited as we are to welcome the springtime! The snowstorms that blanketed the Connecticut shoreline for much of the winter have finally receded — leaving all of our extraordinary nurses eager for the warmth and brighter days of a new season.

It's appropriate that this change of season also brings a new edition of *Transitions* — the student nursing newsletter of **Yale New Haven Health System**. This issues features great articles for both student nurses and new grads, as well as important insights on the transition from nursing student to nursing professional. Across our entire system, we're dedicated to providing positive, supportive learning resources — like *Transitions*.

If you have any questions, comments or suggestions, we're eager to hear your feedback. Please don't hesitate to contact me directly via phone or email — and enjoy the remainder of your spring semester!

Sincerely,

Carol C. Pawlush • College Relations Recruitment Officer • Yale New Haven Health System
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YALE NEW HAVEN HEALTH SYSTEM

A THREE-HOSPITAL SYSTEM LOCATED ON THE CONNECTICUT SHORE



YALE-NEW HAVEN HOSPITAL

A 966-bed Level 1 acute care teaching hospital affiliated with Yale University Schools of Nursing and Medicine – and an employer recognized as one of the top hospitals in the United States by U.S. News & World Report. **For more information, please visit www.ynhhcareers.org.**



BRIDGEPORT HOSPITAL

A large, urban Trauma Center blending the challenges and sophisticated services of a major metropolitan health care center with the warmth and character of a community hospital. **For more information, please visit www.bridgeporthospitalcareers.org.**



GREENWICH HOSPITAL

A state-of-the-art, 174-bed premier regional teaching hospital offering extensive services, beautiful, modern facilities, and national leadership in patient satisfaction. **For more information, please visit www.greenwichhospitalcareers.org.**

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10 TOP TIPS FOR NURSING STUDENTS

APPLYING FOR NEW GRAD NURSING POSITIONS



It's a competitive marketplace for new graduate nurses — especially at top-ranked hospitals, where many capable candidates may find themselves applying for a limited number of openings. We talked to the seasoned Nurse Recruiters at Yale New Haven Health System, and they offered the following suggestions for nursing students looking for tips on standing out in a crowded field of candidates.

- 1. Don't email a blind cover letter and resume to a Human Resources or Recruitment & Staffing Office.**
Most open positions are posted online, and require applicants to complete an online application in order to qualify for consideration. You can usually attach your cover letter and resume to the application before you complete the process.
- 2. Read job listings carefully.**
Some hospital employment websites will list positions that specifically indicate “New Graduate Nurse Positions” — if so, be sure to apply only to appropriate listings. If a site doesn't specifically list positions for new grads, you can apply online to any open RN position for which you meet the qualifications.
- 3. Fill out applications completely.**
Be sure to include any work experience that would make you more attractive to recruiters, especially if it indicates hands-on patient care — such as time spent as a student nurse assistant/technician or emergency department technician.
- 4. Know how to follow up appropriately.**
Most online application systems will enable you to follow your application and know where it stands. Do not call and leave multiple messages for recruiters after you apply.
- 5. Use a professional email address and voicemail message.**
When you apply online, your email and phone numbers are the two key ways that recruiters may try to reach out to you. Be sure to use a professional, reputable-sounding email address. Similarly, be sure the voicemail message on your home/cell phone is what you want recruiters to hear — in other words, no loud music, questionable language or other unprofessional indicators.
- 6. Be prepared for a call — and know ahead of time how to react.**
If a nurse recruiter calls, be sure to answer your phone professionally and only under appropriate circumstances. Answering a call in the middle of class isn't advantageous to you, your instructor, or the nurse recruiter.
- 7. If you are called for an interview, show up on time and dressed appropriately.**
You want to make a good impression, and your promptness and manner of dress should reflect your respect for the hospital and the recruiter. For women, this means no excessive makeup, jewelry or short skirts; for men, a conservatively colored suit and tie are usually a good start.
- 8. Bring a current, typed resume to your interview.**
No handwritten resumes. Ever.
- 9. Be persistent and active online.**
Web listings of openings for new nursing grads change frequently. Check back on sites of hospitals you're interested in to see the most recently posted opportunities, and be sure to apply for appropriate positions.
- 10. Send a note to thank the recruiter and hiring manager.**
If you receive an interview with the nurse recruiter and hiring manager, it is always nice to send a note to thank them and reiterate your interest in the position.

MAKING THE TRANSITION

CONVERSATIONS WITH RECENT NURSING GRADS



A conversation with

Nicole Santos

Yale-New Haven Hospital – Float Pool
2010 BSN Graduate – Bethune Cookman
University, Daytona Beach, FL

Q: Why did you decide to go into nursing?

Interestingly enough, up until my junior year in high school I wanted to be a veterinarian. When I took an anatomy class, however, I suddenly decided that I wanted to go into nursing — and followed that path from there.

Q: What three characteristics do you feel are unique to nursing at Yale-New Haven Hospital?

- Because I work in the Float Pool, I get to meet and talk to nurses in all the different units. It's been really eye opening – in a good way – and I value that experience.
- Teamwork. There is a tremendous amount of nursing teamwork you see and experience every day at Yale-New Haven Hospital.
- The nurses here always put the patients first, but at the same time they're always willing to teach and guide new graduate nurses.

Q: What kind of personality does it take to succeed in nursing?

You have to be selfless. You always have to do your job first, and that means always doing what's best for the patient. Being comfortable with putting others before you is hugely important.

Q: Describe the unit where you work and your favorite aspect of that environment.

I work in the Float Pool right now, which means I'm working on a lot of different units, but my favorite floor is Bariatric Surgery. As a nurse, I find that on that unit you can do more for your patient and spend more time with them. I also really appreciate the staff on that floor — they always have time for you as a new graduate nurse with questions!

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Questions or Comments?

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