

## The Problem

Obtaining the nursing admission history is an essential component of nursing care for the admitted patient. It is recognized that there are many simultaneous activities occurring on the patient care units that demand the nurse's attention to meeting the ongoing needs of other patients as well as interfacing with families, physicians and other departments. The result of the constant disruptions can result in not only frustration of the nurse but also has the potential for fragmentation of patient care.

Review of the 2008 NDNQI results showed a lower than the mean score of the nurse-patient ratio on the medical/surgical units. Additional inquiry reveals that the night shift had higher ratios of admissions after 5pm from previous years. After talking with the nurses the theme that was prominent was that a large number of admissions occur after 5 p.m. when there are limited resources.

# ADMISSION NURSE

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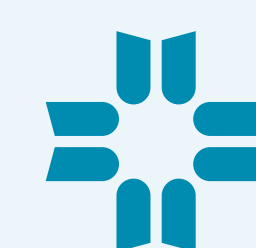
## Purpose

Implement an evening/night shift Admission nurse position in order to streamline the nursing admission process.

## Background

The documentation of the nursing admission history is a very important piece of the admission process. The quality of obtaining the necessary information not only requires adequate time to complete, but necessitates a comprehensive discussion with the patient and/or family to ensure that all of the essential information is gathered at the time of admission.

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## Benefits

One of the intangible benefits of having an Admissions Nurse is the ability to focus on one individual patient, assessing his or her needs, without having to divert their attention to anyone else. This individual attention not only expedites the admission process, but improves the efficiency as well as the quality of the admission process.

The Admission Nurse not only obtains an in-depth admission history of the patient, but also clarifies "home medications", probes into previous illnesses and surgical history, and provides education to the patient and/or families and scripting of regarding visiting policies, patient rights, infection control policies and effective communication with health care provider.

## Comments from the nurses

*"Makes my day go smoother..."*

*"I know that that many details about the patient are gathered that might have been missed otherwise..."*

*"I don't mind getting the admissions when I know that this part of the admit process is done..."*

*"Really is a time saver...."*