

### **Team Harmony Award**

I am proud to nominate the Epilepsy Monitoring Unit team for their remarkable adaptability and unwavering commitment to promoting patient safety. The hospital upgraded the existing 4 bed Epilepsy Monitoring Unit to a comprehensive 6- bed unit, equipped to care for intracranial electrodes and complex epilepsy patients. The establishment of a comprehensive Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) within an already busy pediatric Medical Surgical Unit is no small feat. Yet together, the leadership, nursing staff, neurodiagnostic professionals, and providers have risen to this challenge, wholeheartedly embracing the needs of this patient population.

To enhance safety within the unit, EMU leadership advocated for reduced nursing staff ratios, aiming to create a more secure work environment and improve patient safety. In response, the nursing team developed an acuity-based staffing tool to guarantee that both EMU patients and medical patients receive appropriate staffing coverage, ensuring timely responses to every seizure within the EMU.

Transforming our unit into a fully functioning epilepsy center required extensive education to ensure staff felt confident and competent in caring for children with epilepsy. Under the guidance of the Epilepsy Program Manager, a robust education program was developed and implemented for all staff members working with epilepsy patients in the EMU. This hands-on training included engaging lectures and live simulations that highlighted the critical differences in responding to focal seizures versus generalized tonic-clonic seizures. Staff learned to use Vagus Nerve Stimulators and to care for patients with intracranial electrodes. The enthusiastic participation and positive feedback from the team underscored the program's success. Additionally, all nursing staff were encouraged to pursue the AANN Epilepsy and Seizure Professional Certificate Program to further enhance their expertise. They have embraced the knowledge gained and have received hospital recognition for their achievements.

To further promote patient safety, the staff initiated comprehensive safety audits for each patient in the unit. These audits ensured that all seizure safety equipment was ready for immediate use, that a newly implemented seizure rescue medication card was positioned at the head of each bed, and that a quick reference seizure hand-off card was available for every patient. Thanks to the nurses' dedication to safety, our audit compliance rates soared to over 90%.

The Neuroscience Team continues to strive for excellence and foster growth. They recently established a "Seizure Champions" subgroup within the Unit-Based Council, bringing together staff nurses, coordinators, and neurodiagnostic professionals to enhance collaboration and best practices.

In summary, the commitment, teamwork, and proactive initiatives demonstrated by this Neuroscience Team make them deserving of this nomination. Their efforts not only elevate patient care but also set a benchmark for excellence in our institution.