

We proudly nominate our Neuroscience Unit for the AANN Harmony Award in recognition of excellence in patient care, innovation, and professional development. This exceptional team demonstrates a commitment to safety, quality, and compassionate care, especially during a period of significant transformation, including unit relocation, expansion, and the implementation of a new electronic medical record. Despite these challenges, the unit has not only sustained but improved the optimal outcomes for which it was previously celebrated.

Serving a complex patient population including neurology, neurosurgery, epilepsy, and neuro-oncology, our nurses manage highly specialized cases such as craniotomies, dorsal rhizotomies, and stereotactic electrode implantations, procedures traditionally reserved for intensive care unit (ICU) settings. They expertly care for patients with external ventricular drains, requiring intricate weaning protocols and vigilant intracranial pressure monitoring. The administration and management of complex chemotherapy regimens further underscore the advanced clinical acumen of our team.

The expansion of our Epilepsy Monitoring Unit (EMU) and integration of new technology were met with agility and enthusiasm. Notably, the team improved seizure response times and medication administration efficiency, demonstrating how innovation and adaptability can directly enhance patient outcomes. Certified neuroscience nurses led these efforts, developing best practices and educating peers to ensure safe, high-quality care.

A cornerstone of our success is our commitment to continuous learning. We pioneered a tiered skills orientation model and launched dedicated neuroscience education days focused on Neurology, Epilepsy, Neurosurgery, and Neuro-Oncology. These sessions incorporated interactive discussions and simulation-based learning, fostering understanding and engagement. We are currently supporting team members to obtain the AANN Epilepsy Certificate.

Our unit exemplifies interdisciplinary collaboration. One standout initiative involved partnering with colleagues across the organization to introduce a new medication. Together, we developed educational materials detailing its mechanism, preparation, and administration which were shared broadly to ensure safety. We also partnered with several other departments to provide care for a patient undergoing a novel gene therapy procedure. Our nursing team worked closely with subject matter experts to ensure we were fully prepared to care for the patient after the procedure. This collaboration showcased our team's adaptability, clinical excellence, and commitment to safe, informed care in emerging treatment modalities.

Beyond the bedside, our nurses advocate for neuroscience patients and the profession. They shape care pathways, champion patient-centered processes, and elevate the role of neuroscience nursing within multidisciplinary teams. Current initiatives include streamlining care and reducing length of stay for infants admitted with abnormal movements, and for patients undergoing tethered cord or Chiari malformation surgery. These efforts require expert nurses to guide families through milestones and ensure safe, informed discharges. We are proud to report a 12% decrease in length of stay across all neuroscience specialties.

Our team also develops and shares best practices hospital-wide, including efforts to prevent skin injury caused by electroencephalogram (EEG) leads in our ICU. Through robust collaboration and partnering a 23% reduction in EEG-related pressure injuries in the ICU was achieved. In every dimension, clinical excellence, innovation, education, and advocacy, our Neuroscience Unit exemplifies the highest standards of nursing practice.