

WVU Ruby Memorial Hospital Champions Patient Safety and Quality through RN Transition to Practice

Located in the heart of Morgantown on the campus of West Virginia University, WVU Medicine Ruby Memorial Hospital provides advanced care to West Virginians and others living in the Southeastern United States. As a three time Magnet® designated hospital, the staff at Ruby Memorial’s Residency Program have worked hard to foster a culture dedicated to nursing excellence. By earning accreditation from ANCC’s Practice Transition Accreditation Program™ (PTAP) the nursing staff at Ruby Memorial have not only validated their past successes but set the stage for greater achievements to come. “We wanted to seek ANCC accreditation because we wanted to ‘raise the bar’ for our organization,” said Manager of Nursing Research and Professional Development Lya M. Stroupe DNP, APRN, CPNP, NEA-BC.

Beyond improving existing standards or setting new ones, the staff at Ruby Memorial wanted to create the best possible environment for new graduate nurses. The staff envisioned a Nurse Residency program that provided extra support for the graduates—support that went beyond what they would already receive on the job. That vision eventually led nurse leadership to seek PTAP accreditation. “We want to help them develop professionally throughout the year and for the rest of their careers,” Stroupe said. “[Professional] skills such as communication, ethical decision making, and work-life balance—those skills they may or may not acquire on their units as they are learning their [nursing] tasks.”

That attention to providing newly minted nurses with a host of professional development opportunities has not gone unnoticed by new graduates. “Our biggest challenge has been the amount of new graduate nurses that we have hired within the past year and trying to figure out how every one of them can be a part of our program,” said Stroupe. “Our organization will hire over 500 nurses this year and getting them all through our program has been a bit challenging.”

Despite the challenge, the program’s popularity is a welcome development. “Even before accreditation we have had nurses apply for positions at our organization because we had a Nurse Residency program.” Stroupe elaborated, “We believe that we will continue to see an increase in the number of applicants that seek out our organization because of [PTAP] accreditation.” In addition to increasing the quantity of applicants, accreditation has also been a boost to the program’s curriculum. “With accreditation, we will be able to network with other accredited organizations and gain best practices from them to make the most impact on our graduate nurses,” said Stroupe.

But most importantly, the focus at Ruby Memorial’s Nurse Residency program has always been to provide high-quality care to patients and prepare nurses to succeed, regardless of where their careers might take them. The decision to seek PTAP accreditation is a reflection of the program’s—and organization’s—overall mission and sense of purpose. “[Accreditation] will impact clinical indicators and patient satisfaction,” Stroupe said. “Ultimately, the patients are why we are nurses. Our accredited program will allow our graduate nurses to be held to the highest standard possible which in turn will help them provide safe and quality care to our patients.”

About WVU Medicine-Ruby Memorial Hospital

J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital, the largest facility in the WVU Medicine family, provides the most advanced level of care available to the citizens of West Virginia and bordering states. Our staff consists of highly trained, dedicated professionals who are experienced in the latest techniques and technologies and the art of caring. J.W. Ruby Memorial Hospital, the flagship hospital for WVU Medicine, is named for the late J.W. Ruby. Ruby's late wife, Hazel Ruby McQuain, donated \$8 million toward the construction of the hospital. Ruby was a 21-year-old farm boy in 1924 when he went to work in the plating department of Sterling Specialty Company in Newcomerstown, Ohio. He came to Morgantown prior to World War II when Sterling Faucet purchased the idle mill complex in Morgantown. Ruby was put in charge of the plant. Following the war, Ruby became the owner of Sterling Faucet. By the time he sold it in 1968, Ruby was involved in agriculture, mining, road paving, poultry processing, feed mills, and race horses. He owned several area businesses. Ruby died in 1972 at the age of 69. McQuain died in 2002 at the age of 93.

About the ANCC Accreditation Program

The ANCC Accreditation program recognizes the importance of high-quality continuing nursing education (CNE), skills-based competency, and nurse practice transition programs. Around the world, ANCC-accredited organizations provide nurses with the knowledge and skills to help improve care and patient outcomes. Accreditation by ANCC validates that a nursing residency or fellowship program has been operationalized to meet ANCC standards, regardless of whether the curriculum is developed in-house or purchased from a provider. Use of any course/material/service does not imply eligibility for or successful performance in the submission of credential applications, nor is it a requirement to qualify for accreditation. ANCC does not endorse any products or services.

About ANCC

ANCC is the world's largest and most prestigious nurse credentialing organization. ANCC's internationally renowned credentialing programs certify nurses in specialty practice areas; recognize healthcare organizations for promoting safe, positive work environments through the Magnet Recognition Program® and the Pathway to Excellence® Program; and accredit providers of continuing nursing education, skills competency programs, and transition-to-practice programs. ANCC provides leading-edge information and education services and products to support its core credentialing programs. ANCC continues to drive nursing excellence, quality care, and improved outcomes globally through innovation, research, and operational positive practice.

ANCC is part of ANA Enterprise, which comprises American Nurses Association, American Nurses Credentialing Center, and American Nurses Foundation.

