

Valley Children's Healthcare Friend of Nursing 2017

Jody West, Pharmacist, Perioperative



Often times as nurses, the greatest tool we can have in our bag is not a stethoscope or even a pen, but a pharmacist who can help ensure patients are getting medications in a timely manner. Jody West, RPh, has gone above and beyond that call to help nurses within Valley Children's Healthcare ensure their patients' needs are met in some of their most vulnerable moments.

Jody has served as the lead chempack pharmacist, and provides training on operations to all new staff in our pharmacy. She demonstrates great care when managing our Transport Team bags and emergency equipment, and has been a valued representative for our satellites and offsite clinics.

Jody has helped the Operating Room (OR)/Day Surgery team meet and sustain their goal for first-start cases starting on time. A vital team member, she has offered to come in early on scheduled days and even on her days off to verify orders and order sheets, as well as verify and deliver medications. Jody will also spend time for longer OR cases to anticipate the needs of our physicians and perfusionists, and coordinate with circulating nurses.

Jody coordinated the Malignant Hyperthermia Cart set up and training that included team members from the pediatric intensive care unit (PICU), OR, MRI, and Sedation services.

Jody's help for nurses reaches outside the doors of the Valley Children's Hospital to the whole of our group as a healthcare network. Many times, she has come in on weekends or even late at night to provide assistance to our neonatal intensive care unit (NICU) satellites and the subspecialty clinic in Merced, where she manages and inspects all medications in the office. She also ensures staff access to the most up-to-date medication books and reference materials.

Jody has proven herself a friend of nurses no matter their location or the day and time. Once at the Merced NICU, a drawer in the pyxis failed on a Sunday night, and Jody was the only one who could help. Pharmacy staff called and asked if she would be willing to make the drive. Jody followed through with a grateful heart.

The Valley Children's Transport Teams transfer more than 1,300 patients annually over more than 11 counties. Jody plays an instrumental role ensuring the medication bags for both the Pediatric and Neonatal Transport Teams are fully stocked at all times. She provides crucial support to nurses and respiratory therapists who depend on her to provide the right medication at the right time in potentially the scariest time for a child or parent. When medications are identified as an alternative to the Transport Team's bag, Jody balances the safety of having the medication in the bag, determines if room is available, and processes all policy updates as needed.

Director of Pharmacy Melissa Chase, PharmD, says of Jody, "She will do whatever it takes for the care of our kids any time of day."

We thank Jody West for her exceptional efforts in pharmacy safety at Valley Children's and her tireless support of our nurses.

Congratulations on being the Valley Children's Friend of Nursing 2017.



When we give
OUR BEST...

Doctors and nurses recognized us in the hallways and asked how we were doing. You have a great team. Keep up the great work!!