



Valley Children's Healthcare

Nurse of the Year 2017

Innovation in Professional Nursing

Ruthrolen (Ruth) Martinez, BSN, RN

As our Hemophilia Nurse Coordinator, Ruthrolen (Ruth) Martinez has been instrumental in organizing well-attended events in support of the hemophilia community. By facilitating both patient and family educational events and professional education for school nurses throughout the Central Valley, Ruth provides vital information about this medical condition that impairs the body's ability to make blood clot.

Ruth provided extraordinary leadership for Hemophilia Genetic Testing Day held January 2016. Through her efforts, family members of patients with a bleeding disorder diagnosis were able to receive free genetic testing – a test that can cost more than \$1,000. To plan and carry out this innovative event, Ruth coordinated all logistics required of such an ambitious undertaking, including working with providers to obtain consent forms, arranging for the testing to take place, and securing the lab for special handling of the samples. Ruth also put together the front-end staff to schedule and register family members, and arranged for social workers to meet with families, address any questions posed by testing participants, and provide assistance for transportation to the event if needed. Ruth also submitted a grant to acquire funding to help with the expense of such an endeavor, especially in light of the extra costs involved with the overtime hours related to holding the event on a Sunday.

The implementation of Hemophilia Genetic Testing Day allows for new mutations to be identified in the genome of the hemophilia trait, which will expand the availability of knowledge and improve treatment for those who have the disease worldwide.

This event was so successful that it was accepted as a poster for excellence in clinical practice at the World Federation of Hemophilia World Congress that occurred in Orlando in June 2016, with more than 20,000 attendees. Ruth and several other staff attended and were present during the poster session.

Ruth's project attracted many questions from other Hemophilia Treatment Centers (HTCs), which then requested the logistics used so they could replicate the processes in their communities.

Valley Children's has the only federally funded HTC in the region recognized for providing comprehensive care to individuals with bleeding and clotting problems. Serving as a resource is a big part of the Hematology program goals, and Ruth has played a significant role in helping Valley Children's reach these goals.

Ruth developed and coordinated a nursing quality improvement project. Again with the use of a grant, Ruth organized a half-day educational session for school nurses throughout the Central Valley to learn about bleeding disorders and how to manage them at school. It was presented in August 2016 so the school nurses would have the information prior to the start of the new school year. Over 100 nurses attended from 12 school districts. The evaluations were incredibly positive, and many nurses requested another session with further education. Ruth is involved in the planning process for that event, coming August 2017.

Ruth is also the camp nurse for Camp Hemotion, the Hemophilia Camp located near Oakhurst. Camp Hemotion is a collaborative event that hosts children from all of Northern California. Ruth works with the nurses, doctors, and staff from multiple HTCs to provide a safe and fun summer experience for children with bleeding and clotting disorders. Her dedication provides nursing expertise at camp and a familiar face for children from our own HTC who attend the event.

We salute Ruth Martinez for her inspiration and initiative in helping families, patients, and nurses treat the various hemophilia diseases in the world.

Congratulations on being the Valley Children's Nurse of the Year 2017 – Innovation in Professional Nursing.