



Valley Children's Healthcare

Nurse of the Year 2017

Excellence in Clinical Practice

Tiffany Tharp, RN, BSN, CPN, PHN

A colleague recently said of Tiffany, "she is the perfect example of someone who represents, carries out, and constantly delivers our core values." Over the course of nine months, Tiffany transitioned from working as a Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory (Cath Lab) RN to Charge Nurse overseeing both Cath Lab and Interventional Radiology (IR). As a new Charge Nurse for Cath Lab, Tiffany was tasked with helping develop the IR department, where she provided clinical nurse leadership with limited knowledge of the specialty. Now, colleagues in both Cath Lab and IR seek out Tiffany for her expertise.

Tiffany collaborated with Dr. Trevor Zollinger-Davis, Pediatric Interventional Radiologist, to develop the IR program. She worked diligently with Dr. Davis, other physicians, and perioperative leadership to assess immediate and long-term needs for both departments. Tiffany helped develop innovative case schedule plans, staffing models, and competency checklists for nurses in the new specialty area. She also updated and improved those existing for Cath Lab.

Tiffany has made many contributions to the professional development of nursing to support nursing practice and quality care delivery. She developed the IR RN training program, including an RN competency checklist. She revised the Cath Lab orientation/training binder. Tiffany also implemented monthly staff in-services on congenital heart defects to increase knowledge of our patient population. Through her ongoing collaboration with other pediatric institutions, she has arranged staff site visits to other Cath Labs and IR departments to learn best practices, review opportunities to standardize practices, improve processes, and influence team building and morale.

As much as Tiffany has poured into developing her staff and departments, she does not stop there. Tiffany welcomes educational, conference, and networking opportunities. She is open to taking on any challenge to broaden her experience and increase her knowledge. One example is her collaboration with key Valley stakeholders to start the first Central Valley Chapter for Interventional Radiology Nurses.

Tiffany's strive for excellence in clinical practice does not forget patients and families. She is known for ensuring parents and patients have all questions answered, even if it means pausing en route to a procedure to answer questions and ensure parents give hugs.

Tiffany participates on various committees throughout the organization, including Periop Parent/Family Education, Cardiac Cath Lab Radiation Safety and Monthly Research Meeting, Morbidity and Mortality for Cardiology, Interventional Radiology Planning Committee, Design Team for Customer Service Program, and the Culture of Safety and Error Prevention Trainer.

She also provides nursing support through volunteer efforts every Saturday during baseball season for the Liberty Ranchos Youth Baseball League. There, Tiffany helps run the first aid station for all children, families, and visitors spectating or playing the sport. Tiffany is also an active member of the Parent Club within her children's school district.

Dr. Carl Owada, MD, FACC, FSCAI, Director, Cardiac Catheterization Laboratory best described Tiffany's clinical excellence: "Tiffany transitioned from the PACU and entered the realm of cardiac catheterization as a staff nurse not knowing there was a perfect storm brewing. We had just lost the Cath Lab charge nurse, OR administrative leadership was in flux, new Cath Lab staff were on boarding, and there was this novel program called Interventional Radiology that needed to be created. Tiffany ignored the storm warnings and accepted the position of charge nurse over Cardiac Catheterization and Interventional Radiology. She literally headed into the storm armed only with passion, commitment and dedication to the mission of the hospital. Mind you, she had no content expertise taking on this challenge having never worked in a cardiac or interventional laboratory, two very disparate yet similar disciplines. She asked questions, read, and sought advice from others. She has quickly become the content expert; the go-to person. Under her leadership and example, the dark storm clouds have parted and the future forecast is predicting clear skies."

We thank Tiffany Tharp for her invaluable contributions to staff, patients and families of Valley Children's including Cardiac Cath and Interventional Radiology, and also the community.

Congratulations on being the Valley Children's Nurse of the Year 2017 – Excellence in Clinical Practice.