

## **Pentec Health Boothwyn, PA**

*Pentec Health, Inc., provides nutritional infusion therapies for kidney dialysis patients, as well as in-home care for patients with implanted intrathecal pumps. The organization's Intrathecal Nurse Training Program combines didactic instruction with one-on-one field training to confirm expertise in intrathecal pump management. The program received accreditation from ANCC's Nursing Skills Competency Program, making it the only ANCC-accredited intrathecal program in the United States.*

*Karen McHenry, RN, MSN, Vice President of Nursing Services, shares Pentec's accreditation journey.*

Pentec Health invested a great deal of time and resources to develop the Intrathecal Nurse Training Program, and we believed it was excellent and unique. We looked for a credible organization to validate that we were providing the necessary skills and knowledge to our new nurses. Additionally, we sought the market value of an accredited program. ANCC's Nursing Skills Competency Program was the answer.

Because our program is one of a kind, we were challenged to gather all the information necessary for the application process and meet the requirements. But our reward is validation that we provide a quality orientation program. It strengthens our customers' trust in our nurses' skills, helps us recruit high quality nurses, and reinforces, both internally and externally, that our nurses provide safe and consistent practice.

Superior patient care has always set Pentec apart. Now, our nurses have reached the next level. ANCC criteria is the gold standard in accreditation and to meet these standards confirms to our nurses the quality of the learning they receive and skills they obtain by completing the intrathecal course. It attracts experienced nurses and offers us greater recognition in the marketplace, especially among physicians and insurance providers. Most importantly, it reassures patients of our level of clinical excellence, safe practice, and consistent care delivery across the enterprise.

To others considering accrediting a nursing skills course, we offer this advice: allow enough time to gather your documentation. Set a realistic timeline for submission. Consider hiring a consultant with expertise in test construction.

Above all, don't be afraid to set your goal and go for it! Keep going, even if others lose faith. The outcome is well worth the effort.