

## **Sheridan Memorial Hospital Uses its Nurse Residency to Make Big Impacts in a Rural Community**

Nestled on the Eastern Slope of the Big Horn Mountains in northern Wyoming, Sheridan Memorial Hospital provides pioneering healthcare that belies its size and pastoral location. And true to its values as a dynamic healthcare organization, Sheridan and its employees are constantly striving to find new ways to improve their already high standards—which made them a natural fit for ANCC’s Practice Transition Accreditation Program™ (PTAP). “We were at the conference about two years ago and we were in one of the presentations,” said Sheridan’s Manager of Clinical Education Brooke Jackson, MSN, RN, CNOR. “And they were talking about how they had accredited their Nurse Residency program, so the introduction to [accreditation] was kind of ‘Oh, this is pretty interesting’, because I’m all about standardization.” According to Jackson, “it lets me know what I’m getting when I hire someone. So that if I’m bringing in someone from Florida, I know what I’m getting.”

Accreditation also provides a level of critique that lets Nurse Residency programs review their procedures and systems to make sure that “...there are no gaps,” as Jackson put it. “It’s nice to have someone say ‘these are the standards a program should meet’ and then for us to say ‘yeah, we’re meeting them.’” While the initial review is important, accreditation encourages programs to embrace self-evaluation as a methodology unto itself. “It encourages you to check and see if there are any changes in practice or process and make sure that [you’re] following up on that,” Jackson said. While a desire to achieve a level of standardization drove Jackson’s initial inquiries into the accreditation process, she and her colleagues were interested in doing more than meeting a benchmark. “We also wanted to affirm that what we’re doing is awesome,” she said. “You think you’re doing a great job, and getting great results, but you’re not sure how that relates to everyone else,” Jackson noted.

Receiving that endorsement of your program’s quality is one of the lasting thrills of the accreditation process. “It was really that affirmation, looking at the application, and then looking at our program and seeing that we were doing a really great job,” Jackson said. “It was great to see how much support we have in our hospital, and how things that can be difficult for other hospitals weren’t quite as hard for us,” she continued. “So [accreditation] was really a nice reflection on our facility, hospital, and program.”

And while feelings of satisfaction and accomplishment are important, the core benefits of accreditation are concrete and practical. “Getting yourself accredited and knowing that you’re nationally recognized is a really big deal,” said Jackson. “That then makes our residency program even more attractive. We get a lot of applications from out of state but this will help with recruiting.”

Beyond the praise or improved recruiting, PTAP accreditation is about impacting every aspect of a healthcare organization, from the nurses working bedside to the community as a whole. “Wyoming is a rural state—we don’t have a city over 70,000 people, and we’re in a city of 17,000,” Jackson said. “So [accreditation] is a huge impact to our state. The Wyoming Nurses Association has asked us to talk about it,” she said. “So it’s going to show that in Wyoming—and hopefully other rural communities—that you don’t have to be a huge hospital or system to have an impact in your community or in nursing.”

Accreditation enables nurses to provide the kind of high quality, outcome-driven care that is necessary in a modern healthcare organization—without losing sight of their own growth as professionals and

educators. “It was exciting and fun for us, and really educational. I felt like it was a great process,” Jackson said. “I would recommend it for any Nurse Residency program.”

Visit [www.nursecredentialing.org/CaseforPTAP](http://www.nursecredentialing.org/CaseforPTAP) for more information about PTAP and to read about other PTAP programs.

### **About Sheridan Memorial Hospital**

Sheridan Memorial Hospital, located on the Eastern Slope of the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming, is a unique community-centered hospital that balances contemporary medical technologies with an extraordinary commitment to patient satisfaction. For over 100 years, Sheridan has brought progressive programs and medicine, superior outcomes, and cutting-edge technology to the people it serves. Licensed for 88 beds, Sheridan Memorial Hospital is a progressive, state-of-the-art facility in beautiful Sheridan, Wyoming. With sophisticated technology and services beyond what one might expect in a hospital this size, patients can take comfort in knowing they are receiving high quality care.

### **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.