NURSE SCIENTIST/RESEARCHER

Nurse scientists identify research questions, design and conduct scientific studies, collect and analyze data, and report their findings. Many teach in academic settings and often write articles and research reports for professional journals and publications. Some conduct their hands-on research onsite at the hospital. Nurse scientists in hospitals have contributed to decreased numbers of infections, shorter lengths of stay, and more informed patients who can better care for themselves upon returning home.

Nurses in these leadership roles benefit from research-based education and experience, which can be gained through an advanced degree program, such as a Master of Science in Nursing to Doctor of Nursing Practice. These programs provide medical professionals with the skills to conduct research and lead teams of nurses toward making new discoveries.

Studies conducted by these dedicated researchers are uncovering such things as new and better ways to:

- Deliver health care services more effectively and efficiently
- Improve quality of life for patients suffering from chronic illnesses
- Encourage patients to make healthy choices about nutrition, fitness and lifestyle
- Assure patient safety and prevent injury and illness
- Provide care and comfort to patients at the end of life

Nurse researchers may begin their research careers in positions such as research assistant, clinical data coordinator and clinical research monitor.

The title of principle investigator reflects the most senior research role and greatest responsibility and accountability associated with a research study.

The results of nursing research help build the knowledge base and provide the evidence to guide interventions by nurses and other health care workers.

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