

# **Rita V. Smith**

**5 Julie Drive, Edison, New Jersey 08820  
(Home) 908-745-3228 (E) rsmith@libertyhcs.org**

## **Professional Experience**

---

2004-present **Jersey City Medical Center**

**355 Grand Street**

**Jersey City, New Jersey 07302**

### **Senior Vice President Patient Care Services and Chief Nursing Officer**

- Direct report to the President and Chief Executive Officer for LibertyHealth
- Ex-officio voting member of the LibertyHealth Board of Trustees
- Provides comprehensive oversight of the patient care and clinical support services of the hospital
- Participates in the strategic planning and program development and implementation for the hospital
- Designs and implements standards of care for nursing and patient care services promoting and facilitating a multidisciplinary approach to patient care
- Collaborates and strategizes with physicians and physician department chairs to provide safe, effective and efficient patient care throughout the facility
- Collaborates with the senior executive team to develop new service lines for the hospital as well as facility expansion projects
- Ensures compliance, implementation, utilization and understanding of management information systems including EDIMS and Centricity and a hospital-wide EMR system
- Possesses sound knowledge of Joint Commission, State and Federal regulations
- Developed academic affiliations with all area universities for baccalaureate and masters programs in Nursing.
- Instituted a Nurse Residency program in collaboration with the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey's School of Nursing
- Developed a model for Clinical Nurse Leader and implemented the role throughout the institution
- Executive sponsor for Total Care at the Bedside (TCAB) project
- Provided leadership for the initiation of the Magnet Program hospital-wide including the establishment of a Shared Governance model.

- Achieved Magnet designation in October of 2008
- Achieved state designation as a stroke center and received the Bronze *Get with the Guidelines* award for stroke care
- Responsible for 40% of the institutions operating budget
- Developed and implemented outpatient rehabilitation and imaging services in a for profit Medical Office building
- Chairs/co-chairs the Value Analysis Committee, Clinical Key Process Council, Nurse Executive Council, Nurse Manager's Council and the Staff Nurse Coordinating Council. Member of the Performance Improvement Steering Committee, Ethics, Pharmacy and Therapeutics and Operations and Strategic Planning Committees; past chair of the Quality Assessment and Oversight Committee of the Board

2001-2004 **Jersey City Medical Center**  
**355 Grand Street**  
**Jersey City, New Jersey 07302**

**Vice President of Patient Care Services-Nursing**

- Implemented a fellowship program for new graduate nurses based on a strong philosophy of mentorship for nurses
- Instituted a Nurse Excellence Award program for staff nurse recognition
- Implemented a differentiated practice model (Clinical Ladder) for nursing
- Instituted a Management Development program for all nurse managers
- Decreased the RN vacancy rate from 28% to 6% within a two year period
- Decreased the agency nurse usage from 68 FTEs/year to 6 FTEs/year within a two year period
- Maintained the nurse turnover rate at 3% for three years
- Participated in the design and planning for the construction of a new replacement hospital. Organized and implemented the seamless move of all acute care services to the new facility

1991-2001 **Jersey City Medical Center**  
**355 Grand Street**  
**Jersey City, New Jersey 07302**

**Director of Patient Care Services**

- Managed the Medical/Surgical units, Telemetry and Intermediate care, Rehabilitation Services, Endoscopy, Preadmission Testing,

Outpatient Clinics, Inpatient Detoxification, Forensic Unit and employee Health

- Developed a pain management team to educate all staff and institute pain management protocols for acute and chronic pain
- Instituted a hospital-wide manager support group for Directors of services to support education and collaboration between services
- Established an 18 bed sub-acute care AIDS unit with a multidisciplinary approach to physical and nutritional rehabilitation and intensive teaching to reduce both length-of-stay and recurrent admissions to the acute care facility
- Established an 8 bed inpatient medical detoxification unit in conjunction with the department of Psychiatry and a Hudson County uncompensated care grant to manage alcohol and opiate detoxification

1987-1991 **Riverview Medical Center**  
**Red Bank, New Jersey**

**Director of Admissions/Registration and Preadmission Testing**

- Managed all admission and registration services for the Emergency Department, Same-Day-Surgery, Outpatient Departments and Preadmission Testing for a 550 bed acute care hospital

1983-1987 **Irvington General Hospital**  
**Irvington, New Jersey**

**Director of Medical/Surgical and Critical Care Services**

1971-1983 Worked as a staff nurse in three (3) hospitals in the Critical Care Division: **St. Luke's Hospital**, Kentucky, **St. Luke's Hospital Center**, New York and **Raritan Bay Medical Center**, New Jersey.

**Education**

---

2008 **University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey**  
**65 Bergen Street**  
**Newark, New Jersey 07101**

Attained Doctorate of Nurse Practice (DNP), clinical focus and capstone project focused on the organization of a nurse managed healthcare center located in an underserved area

1989 **New York University**  
**New York, New York**

Attained a MPA Health Care Policy

1986        **Kean College  
Union, New Jersey**

Attained a Bachelors of Science in Nursing (BSN)

1971        **Good Samaritan Hospital School of Nursing  
Lexington, Kentucky**

Received a Diploma in Nursing

### **Certifications**

---

**American Nurses Credentialing Center: NEA-BC**

### **Professional Memberships**

---

American College of Health Care Executives  
Sigma Theta Tau  
Organization of Nurse Executives of New Jersey-ONE/NJ

- Serves as a member of the Advocacy Committee
- Co-chair Advocacy Committee 2012-2013

American Nurses Association/New Jersey State Nurses Association  
ANA/NJSNA  
Academy of Medical/Surgical Nurses  
New Jersey Hospital Association (NJHA)

- Member of the Nurse Executive Constituency Group

New Jersey Council of Magnet Organizations (NJCOMO)

- Serves as Executive Advisor on the Structural Empowerment sub-council

### **Other Activities**

---

- Serves as preceptor for master's candidates from Kean University, New Jersey City University and Seton Hall University
- Serves on Curriculum Development Committee for the Clinical Nurse Leader program at the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey School of Nursing (UMDNJ)
- Serves on the Curriculum Development Committee for St. Peter's College School of Nursing
- Serves on the Academic Advisory Board for the School of Nursing at New Jersey City University (NJCU)
- Adjunct faculty at UMDNJ School of Nursing and Rutgers University School of Nursing
- Serves as Treasurer UMDNJ School of Nursing Alumni Association 2010 – present

- Member of the Education Committee for Liberty Science Center 2011- present
- Serves as mentor to high school science students as a member of the Women's Leadership Council of the Liberty Science Center

## **Publications**

---

*A New Concept of AIDS Hospital Care*, Spectrum, 1994, July Issue, by Karen O'Keefe and Rita Smith

*Pain management: The Global Connection*, Nursing Management, June, 2002, Rita Smith MPA, Michael Curci RPh and Allan Silverman RPh

Pain Management in Special Populations: Challenging Populations. An educational video presentation by Joint Commission Resources, a subsidiary of Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, 2003.

## **Presentations**

---

*Pain as the Fifth Vital Sign*, Jersey City Medical Center, September 20, 2005

**Innovations in Education and Practice:** *Clinical Nurse Leader: Perceptions, Possibilities and Reality*, 43<sup>rd</sup> annual Maitland Stewart Conference on Research in Nursing, April 21, 2006

*Turn Your Data Into Dollars: Using Clinical Outcomes to Provide Cost-Effective Care*, UMDNJ-School of Nursing **Center for Lifelong Learning-Clinical Leadership** Conference, November 29, 2008

*The Future of Advance Practice Nursing, Organizational Opportunities*, UMDNJ School of Nursing Alumni Association, May 15, 2011

*Mentoring and Coaching*: the 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Advanced Emergency & Acute Care medicine and Technology Conference, September 26, 2011

## **Awards**

---

Deans award for outstanding contribution to nursing, UMDNJ School of Nursing, 2007

The Institute for Nursing *Diva Award* for contribution to the advancement of health care and nursing, December 5, 2007

*Healthcare Hero's Nurse of the Year Award* from NJBIZ, 2009