

Virginia Mae Enad – PCICS Bedside Nursing Award

Have you ever gotten sign out on a patient who is just days old, barely 3 kilograms, paralyzed and sedated in a isolette and yet the details of this patient's clinical situation leave you anxious and apprehensive? And as you walk to the bedside to examine the baby, perhaps prepare yourself and make plans for the next few hours, or at least minutes, you see a shining star – the nurse that makes the situation a thousand times better. The nurse that leaves you thinking you will all get through the night and perhaps even make the patient's clinical scenario improved by morning. Well this is how I regularly feel when I meet Virginia at my patient's bedside.

Virginia consistently provides excellent nursing care. She maintains a composed and professional demeanor while respectfully practicing with a questioning attitude. She is always positive, even during the toughest of circumstances, and is a fierce advocate for her patients. Virginia has been a nurse for 26 years and has been awarded several Daisy awards, the Edmund Devlin Nursing Excellence Award as well as a hospital-wide Nursing Excellence Award. On the unit, she regularly mentors new staff, often functions in the resource role, and even raised a daughter, with similar traits, who now provides excellent nursing care within the CICU here at CHOP.

Virginia is from the Philippines in the town of Compostela. She frequently speaks of her hometown, is an avid traveler and often coordinates charitable events. She recently organized a financial collection to provide meals of those who suffered from the devastating Typhoon Odette and lost their homes and property. She has an immensely big heart and is always giving to those in need. As another recent example, Virginia practiced her sainthood for a complex international patient that she cared for during the COVID pandemic. In the baby's final days, her grandmother flew to meet the baby. Naturally, Virginia swiftly escalated through the chains of command to coordinate a visit before her grandmother's flight back home. While this was such a natural response for Virginia, it is these actions that gifted the grandmother an opportunity to meet her granddaughter before she passed.

The examples are too many to detail, as she regularly uses her magic to calm the agitated, tachycardic babies and promote peaceful rest. She uses her magic to perform diligent chest physiotherapy, pulmonary toileting and turning to avoid reintubation in the most tenuous of situations. She uses her magic to find all of her 8 arms to slowly resuscitate a patient for hours to bring the child to a level of stability by morning. Virginia deserves to be recognized for her highly-valued excellence in clinical care, patient advocacy, and the nursing profession.