

Shelly Folsom

Shelly began her career at YNHH in the PICU in 2003. Over the years, her practice has evolved to that of expert critical care nurse, caring for a broad range of patients, including complex medical and postoperative cardiac patients. Shelly is a well-respected leader in the unit who functions in the roles of bedside clinician, charge nurse, Clinical Nurse Coach (focusing on the development of less experienced staff), and preceptor. Whether caring directly for the patient, or assisting the nurse in the room, Shelly remains clear-headed and composed, expertly processing complex pieces of information and responding to changes in patient status. As a charge nurse on the night shift, her presence is reassuring to staff during critical situations as she appropriately delegates roles and tasks, and supports less experienced staff in gaining the knowledge and experience to grown in their practice.

Shelly has a passion for the care of critically ill cardiac patients. She currently chairs our Cardiac Committee, facilitating monthly meetings and planning activities that foster in our nurses the development of knowledge and skill in the care of cardiac patients. These activities include posting of “defect of the month” and “arrhythmia of the month,” sharing articles related to cardiac care, facilitating skills review for the HeartMate 3 and cardiac procedure cart, and promoting process changes in our growing program. Shelly is also an active member of our Unit-based Improvement Team, an interdisciplinary team that has been instrumental in creating, approving, and disseminating standards, protocols, pathways, checklists/ job aids, and other tools that support multidisciplinary practice in our Pediatric Cardiac ICU.

As a bedside leader, Shelly took the initiative to recommend changes to staff scheduling to impact recruitment and retention. She now facilitates the self-scheduling process and partners with unit leadership to address scheduling concerns of staff. This has led to improved staff satisfaction, perception of value, and engagement.

Shelly is an outstanding cardiac critical care nurse and an asset to our program. I enthusiastically recommend her for the PCICS Bedside Nurse Award.