

Stephanie Fortier

Stephanie has been a nurse in our Heart Center program since 2008, working primarily in the PICU, where she cares for complex medical and postoperative cardiac patients. She transitioned to the pediatric cath lab in 2011 before returning to the ICU in 2015. Stephanie is a demonstrated leader in the PICU/PCICU who functions in the role of charge nurse, Clinical Nurse Coach (focusing on less experienced staff), and preceptor. As a bedside leader, Stephanie provides expert nursing care for the most complex and critically ill patients with grace and composure. She is able to quickly recognize and respond to subtle signs of decline, while remaining composed and focused. Whatever the circumstance, her presence is a source of reassurance and comfort to both her patients and their families. This ability has been recognized by her peers and in 2020, she was awarded the Jean Watson Award for Caring at YNHH. She is a role model for clinical presentations on nurse-led rounds and advocates effectively for the needs of her patients.

Stephanie serves as the chair of the unit's Hospital Acquired Conditions committee. This committee has been instrumental in significantly reducing our CLABSI rates over the last year. Interventions included skills reviews during "CLABSI Fairs," implementation of "Bare Below the Elbows" protocol, and practice audits. The road to this accomplishment was shared as a podium presentation at the SPS conference in May 2022 (Denver) and as a poster presentation during the 2022 Joseph A. Zaccagnino Safety, Quality and Experience Conference (YNHHS): *Crushing CLABSI Rates in Pediatric Critical Care: A Multidisciplinary Approach*.

Contributing to Stephanie's practice is her commitment to continuous learning. She was among the first nurses to complete the advanced cardiac curriculum in the PCICU and is currently in school, pursuing her Master's Degree. She freely shares her knowledge and experience with her colleagues, particularly her orientees and those she mentors in her role as a Clinical Nurse Coach. She is well-respected by her physician and APP colleagues for her clinical knowledge and expertise. Beyond the walls of the PICU/PCICU, Stephanie has also demonstrated her passion for leadership and development through her participation in Professional Governance, serving on the Practice Excellence Council (2013-2016, chair) and chairing the Children's Council (2017-2019, chair), as well as the Coordinating Council (2013-2019) which is a representative group of the chairs of all the other shared governance councils.

Stephanie is an outstanding cardiac nurse, an asset to our program. I enthusiastically recommend her for the PCICS Bedside Nurse Award.