

PCICS Bedside Nursing Award 2022

Nominee: Margaret Seltzer

Margaret Seltzer or “Peggy” has impacted many people during her tenured nursing career. Peggy has been a CICU nurse at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia for 18 years. She comes to work every day ready to give great care to the best of her ability aligning with the patient and their families to truly deliver effective family-centered care. She builds a partnership that is valued by her patients and can be attested by her six hospital-wide daisy awards with countless other nominations. Not many people in their career can say they have had such a palpable impact that has never faltered, but Peggy can and continues to set an example of exemplary nursing care.

One of my core memories as a new nurse is the first time, she helped me in an urgent patient situation. I vividly remember, just months after orientation, I had a paired assignment and one of my patients was requiring an escalation in care. As a new nurse, I was so task-oriented, and delegating to others was still a very uncomfortable space. I felt as if my one stable patient was not getting the attention they needed as my second was decompensating. Peggy was the charge nurse that day, and it was one of the first times I've worked with her. She was able to read the situation instantly, anticipate patient and staff needs, and delegated everything quickly. She controlled a situation that felt very chaotic and overwhelming. She gave me the ability to prioritize, control the situation, and breathe. If I had to sum up Peggy's impact day in and day out, it would be her ability to ease any emergency and to give astute attention to anticipate the next steps. She's able to prevent catastrophic events because she's able to see what needs to happen and provides safe and effective care in a way most will never master.

Even though this is one small example, Peggy does things like this every day. She is always a team player, always looking out for others. The fact that this has never wavered throughout her career is a testament to her. Peggy leads the way as a charge nurse and resource nurse. The one aspect of her career that continues to resonate is her unique and fantastic ability to be a mentor. She has had her hand in everyone's training. I mean everyone from nursing staff, APPs, fellow trainees, and attendings. The impact she has had on her coworkers, colleagues, patients, and families cannot be matched. Peggy is so deserving of this recognition. Quite simply, she supplies her patients, families, and coworkers with that much needed ability to breathe.