

NOMINATION FOR CAHN'S 'RISING STAR AWARD'

Leanne Cadden, nominated by Anna DeWolff

4th of January, 2018

How has this nurse acquired new learning and incorporated it into their practice environment?

BCIT Viral Hepatitis course.

Mentorship from hepatology colleague, me, Anna DeWolff, the submitting nurse.

Physician, Pharmacology and CAHN educational opportunities.

How has this nurse demonstrated commitment to Hepatology nursing?

Immediately after her very first day of orientation, Leanne accompanied me to Kelowna (120km road trip) for a dinner presentation/meeting with our Okanagan colleagues; a guest physician from Vancouver was speaking. Since that initial evening meeting, Leanne has attended all possible educational events, dinner meetings, CAHN meetings, and participated in webinars and on-line discussion platforms. Most of these have been on her own unpaid time, mostly at her expense. She has also accessed an on-line case study platform.

How has this nurse demonstrated leadership qualities?

Leanne is very solution orientated. She quickly identifies problems, asks probing questions, and follows-up on issues within the clinic. She has great problem solving ability, searching out solutions from other health care colleagues, both nursing and different disciplines. She has created efficiency within the clinic through technology – initiating use of the clinic's physician's office EMR.

Leanne is obviously not afraid to embrace change and try something new. When she started working with the Salmon Arm Liver Clinic we only had clinics once a month, albeit very full clinics! She worked with me on clinic days for 7 months, and then at the beginning of 2017 for 2 months once a week as an extra nurse.... In March, I left for an extended leave (5mth cross Canada trip!!); from this time onwards, Leanne has been running the clinic by herself, obviously also with input and support from the clinic physician. She accepted the job willingly and managed the challenges superbly!

After I returned from my 8 months leave, it was obvious that even as a novice hepatology nurse Leanne had been willing to change clinic processes if she saw a better more efficient way of operating; she modified and took responsibility of any outcome issues. While orientating, I had asked her to please look at the clinic processes with 'fresh eyes' and if she could see improvements, please feel free to initiate them. She had maintained the basic functioning processes of the clinic, but had also implemented changes to improve overall function. While running the clinic by herself, she had searched out and initiated many new relationships with members of the hepatology health care team of professionals.

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Briefly describe how does this nurse's practice reflect CAHN's Standards & Competencies

Leanne is extremely committed to the academic learning process. When she was attending her first days of orientation with me in the summer of 2016, she obviously went home and did more reading and research on what we had been discussing. She returned the next day(s) with more questions! Within the first few weeks of working with me she signed up for the BCIT Viral Hepatitis course. She is very responsive to learning, embracing all educational opportunities and showing willingness to learn from both her mentor and the clinic physician, and now, as she has gained experience, from other health care professionals. She obviously has high practice standards for herself.

What, above all, motivated you to nominate this person as a Rising Star in the field of Hepatology nursing?

I have had the great fortune to work alongside Donna Zukowski – she has now become a very close personal friend of mine! Indeed, she has been a mentor to me in many aspects of my professional career. While I was away on my leave, Donna worked with Leanne, seeing first-hand how well she was managing the clinic by herself. Donna suggested we nominate Leanne for this new award. When reading the criteria, I agreed wholeheartedly!!