

MARY CATHERINE BERKNESS

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Registered Nurse, Community Living Center, Sioux Falls VA Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD 2017-present

- Team lead for 15 long term care, rehab and hospice patients
- Provide direct patient care, administer medications, and complete dressing changes
- Delegate to LPN's and RN's when performing team lead role
- Complete MDS assessments
- Create and update care plans
- Verify and implement provider orders
- Assess patients for acute changes and contact providers as necessary

Registered Nurse, Medical Surgical Unit, Sioux Falls VA Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD 2016-2017

- Assess patient status of acute patients
- Provide direct patient care, administer medications, and complete dressing changes
- Complete and update care plans
- Monitor telemetry
- Delegate to unlicensed personnel
- Verify and implement provider orders
- Contact providers as necessary based on assessment

Registered Nurse, Adult Services, Lifescope (formerly South Dakota Achieve), Sioux Falls, SD 2013-2016

- Manage medical care for 45+ individuals with disabilities
- Complete annual assessments ensuring state requirements are met
- Assess acute and chronic medical concerns
- Implement physician orders and ensure orders are carried out by medi-aide trained staff
- Delegate to unlicensed support staff
- Collaborate with a team to ensure medical supports are appropriate and in place
- Complete nursing tasks as needed (g-tube changes, catheter changes, injections, diabetic foot care, etc.)
- Provide education to persons supported and support staff

Nurse Preceptorship, Orthopedic/neurology unit, Sanford Hospital, Sioux Falls, SD, Spring 2013

Union Gospel Mission, 2012-2013, resumed July 2015-2016

- Complete basic health assessments and health histories, provide education, make referrals to Falls Community Health

Direct Support Professional, South Dakota Achieve, Sioux Falls, SD, 2009-2013

- Provide physical and psychosocial care to individuals with mental and physical disabilities
- Implement specialized support for individuals with traumatic brain injuries
- Monitor and report changes in condition to medical services
- Trainings include: medication-aide, gastric tube medication administration, non-violent Crisis Prevention Intervention certification, CPR and AED certification

EDUCATION:

Associate of Science Degree, Nursing, University of South Dakota, Sioux Falls, SD, 2011-2013
Bachelor of Arts Degree, Studio art, College of Saint Benedict, Saint Joseph, MN, 2003-2007
Study Abroad, Bunkyo Gakuen, Tokyo, Japan, fall 2005

CERTIFICATIONS:

- *BLS*, 2016
- *ACLS*, 2016

AWARDS:

- *Clinical Excellence Award*, USD Nursing, 2013