**MARIA VARGAS**   
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**PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY**

Professionally trained bilingual in English and Spanish Registered Nurse with experience in ensuring high standards of quality care for a wide variety of patients across the lifespan.

**SKILLS**

Managerial: Preceptor, Charge Nurse

High level of autonomy

Fluent in Spanish

EPIC, Athena, Power chart, Microsoft Office, and Pyxis proficient

Trained in Therapeutic Crisis and Intervention

Thorough physical assessments

Adept at prioritizing/managing deadlines

Problem resolution capability

Professional bedside manner

Patient/family focused

Extensive experience with care planning and care coordination

Familiar with IDPH and Joint Commission standards for accreditation

CPR and ACLS certified

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

***Northwestern Memorial Hospital Chicago, IL***

Nurse Clinician, General and Colorectal Surgery 03/2019-02/2020

•In charge of scheduling and coordinating surgical procedures for colorectal and general gastroenterology surgery.

•Prepared pre-op paperwork and educated patients and family members about the disease process, treatment

modalities, post-operative self-care, procedures, and follow up recommendations.

•Called patients regarding follow-up, test results, medical instructions, and patient education.

•Triaged and prioritized incoming telephone calls using clinical assessment skills and service standards for colorectal

and general surgery.

•Called insurance to verify prescription coverage and initiated prior authorization when needed.

•Completed FMLA/STD paperwork for patients and family members.

***Maxim Healthcare Chicago, IL***

Field Based Complex Care Nurse Care Coordinator at Cook County Stroger Hospital 09/2018-02/2019

•Conducted initial assessments within designated timeframes on patients identified as having complex medical and

Psychological needs. (Assessment areas include clinical, behavioral, social, environment and financial)

• Engaged patient, family, and caregivers to assure that a well-coordinated care plan was established.

• Prioritized care needs, set goals with members, and developed an initial plan of care that also addressed gaps and or

barriers to care.

• Made outbound calls to assess member’s health status and identify gaps or barriers in treatment plans.

• Made referrals to outside sources and assisted members in learning to navigate the healthcare system.

• Educated members on disease processes, medical/psychological conditions, and on how to obtain optimal health.

***Presence Health Resurrection Medical Center Chicago, IL*** Registered Nurse -Intensive Care Unit-Medical/Surgical/Neuro 05/2018- 08/2018

• Provided direct patient care to patients’ with high acuities that were respiratory, cardiac, and neurologically impaired.

• Observed patients’ vital signs and implemented interventions based on critical thinking and assessment skills.

• Worked in a team environment with doctors and reported critical values and changes in patient status.

• Administered medications via various routes and monitored patient for adverse effects.

***Chicago Children’s Center for Behavioral Health at Presence St. Elizabeth Hospital Chicago, IL***

Pediatric and Adolescent Psychiatric Registered Nurse 10/2017-03/2018

• Responsible for admitting and discharging patients from the acute inpatient psychiatric unit.

• Developed and implemented individualized psychiatric treatment plans for children and adolescents.

• Participated in treatment plan meetings with the interdisciplinary team to discuss individual treatment plans and

discharge planning.

• Participated in milieu management by ensuring safety for all staff and clients.

• Acted as Charge Nurse when Charge nurse not available.

***PCC Community Wellness Center at Steinmetz High School Chicago, IL***

Ambulatory Registered Nurse Team Lead/Telephone and Walk-in Triage Registered Nurse 07/2016-03/2017

• Under the direction of Site Physician and Advanced Practice Nurses, responsible for the assessment and treatment of

patients in an ambulatory care clinic attached to a High School.

• When appropriate, administered emergency care, first aid, medications, immunizations and/or injections as directed

by Provider and as outlined by facilities policies and procedures.

• Tracked and reported communicable diseases to CDPH and IDPH.

• Used teach back method and motivational interviewing to provide patient education, according to the individualized

needs of the patient and as prescribed by the Provider and/or health center policy. Educated patient and/or family

members about procedures, medications, disease process, nutrition, and maintenance of health and wellness.

• Triage Phone/Walk-in Response: Responded to/referred incoming patient treatment-related phone calls by using

nursing judgement, telephone triage protocols, departmental policy and procedures, and counseling with providers.

Triaged walk-ins by taking vitals and doing a thorough/focused assessment.

• Made sure facility met IDPH and Joint Commission standards for accreditation.

***Metropolitan Family Services Chicago, IL***

Nurse Consultant 12/2014-10/2016

• Performed monthly audits and verified that health requirements of the Early Head Start and Toddler programs were

met according to federal Head Start and state Child Care Licensing standards.

• Conducted monthly health and safety checklists for the toddler and Early Head Start programs.

• Conducted postpartum home visits and performed assessments on babies whose mothers were participants in the

“Healthy Families Program.”

***Casa Central Chicago, IL***

Adult Wellness Nurse/Head Start and Early Head Start Nurse 10/2015-06/2016

• Monitored and made sure physicals, immunizations, dentals, hearing, vision, and growth

assessments were up to date for both home based and center-based Head Start and Early Head start participants.

• Duties included monitoring medications and medication administration records for both Head Start and Adult Daycare.

• Performed admission assessments as well as follow up assessments, also created and updated individualized Care

Plans according to participant’s needs and diagnoses.

***Clayton Residential Homes Chicago, IL***

Licensed Practical Nurse/Charge Nurse 09/2013-12/2015

• Provided patient care to more than 200 psychiatric residents, administered medication, performed

Accu-checks, administered insulin, tracked side effects, charted progress, and transcribed Doctor’s orders.

• Worked in concordance with the multidisciplinary team and other departments to meet patient needs.

• Able to deescalate patients by using non-violent intervention techniques like Crisis Prevention and Intervention.

• Acted as a Charge Nurse and served as preceptor for new nurses.

**EDUCATION**

***Bachelor of Science in Nursing* *Associates of Science in Nursing***

Purdue University Hammond, IN December 2017 Wilbur Wright College Chicago, IL December 2015

Dean's list, Cum laude 3.7 GPA