AMSN PRISM Award Application

IMPORTANT:
Please note that this document is for reference only and cannot be used to submit a final application. For the most recent link to the online AMSN PRISM Award application, please visit the AMSN PRISM Award page on amsn.org.

If copying and pasting from a document to the online application, please ensure that the question you are pasting to is the same as the document you are copying from.
About the Award

The AMSN PRISM Award recognizes elite medical-surgical units for providing exemplary patient care. The professional nurse is responsible for their individual practice. However, it takes a dynamic, energetic, and committed group of professionals within a medical-surgical unit, diligently practicing as a synergistic team, to achieve and sustain outstanding patient and staff satisfaction outcomes. Premier medical-surgical units are committed to providing excellent patient care, measuring successes, identifying opportunities for enhancement, conducting research, incorporating evidence-based practice, and creating an atmosphere of collaboration, innovation, and creativity. Medical-surgical units demonstrating these characteristics often have lower staff turnover rates, and through their reputation, are recognized as premier sites for patient care and employment. The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSN) and the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board (MSNCB) are proud to offer the AMSN PRISM Award. In the name of this prestigious award, “PRISM” signifies Premier Recognition In the Specialty of Med-Surg.

Through this distinguished honor, AMSN and MSNCB identify and celebrate medical-surgical units that achieve sustained excellence in:

- Patient/Care Management
- Holistic Patient Care
- Elements of Interprofessional Care
- Professional Concepts
- Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration

Achievement of the AMSN PRISM Award recognizes the professionalism and expertise of select medical-surgical units. The units achieving this distinction serve as models for other units to emulate, elevate the stature of the medical-surgical setting, and reflect the attainment of national standards for exemplary medical surgical units. Patient care units eligible to apply for this award include any individual acute care unit with a primarily adult and/or elderly patient population with medical-surgical diagnoses. These units may admit and provide care for adolescent patients on a periodic basis in an “overflow” capacity or may be a combined adult/pediatric unit that is classified by the facility as a medical-surgical unit. These units may utilize remote telemetry monitoring but may not be classified as step-down or progressive care units by their facilities. Multiple units from the same facility which fit the description of a medical-surgical unit may apply for the award. Each unit must apply individually. Float pools are not eligible to apply.
Directions:

- Each question should be answered in its entirety.
- Unless otherwise stated, all data provided must be within the last 3 years.
  - Provide a graph for the data table
  - Must provide at least 3 data points
- You may include documents as supporting evidence. Do not include documentation that does not refer to the criteria. Documents must immediately follow the question to which they refer. Documentation cannot include identifying information or photos of staff.
- To ensure that the application and review process maintains confidentiality and to observe Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPAA) regulations, applicants are asked to remove any patient or employee identifying information. Applications that violate confidentiality and/or HIPAA requirements will be disqualified.
- This is a blinded application process. All information including hospital or hospital system name, hospital acronym, unit name, and other distinguishing names like a local chapter name and local nursing associations must be eliminated before submitting the final application such as:
  - Name of all individuals: substitute [name], [nurse], [patient], [family member], etc.
  - Name or acronym of hospital/health system: substitute [hospital], [health system], etc.
  - Names of cities or states: substitute [city], [state]
  - Names or acronyms of companies or organizations: substitute [local company], [national company], [local community group], [national association], [state association], etc.
  - Identifying logos, images, etc. must be removed from all charts, graphs, and other documents.
- Multiple collaborators are allowed to work on this application together. The person who begins the application is considered the Primary Collaborator.
- Only one collaborator can work in the application at a time—when one collaborator is working, the others are locked out.
- The Primary Collaborator can add or remove other collaborators using the "Manage Collaborators" button on the upper right side of the first screen. The Primary Collaborator can also pass that role to another person if desired.
- Applications will be initially screened to ensure they are complete, blinded, and comply with the instructions above.
- After the initial screening, applications will be peer reviewed by one of several trained review teams composed of medical-surgical nurses.
- To achieve the award, a score of 108 out of a possible 120 points is needed.
- Allow 14-16 weeks to receive the status of your application.
- Applicants who do not meet the requirements will be notified and feedback will be provided for improvement. These applicants will have the opportunity to resubmit their application one time with no additional application fee if the resubmit is finalized/submitted within 9 months of the date of notice.
The award is valid for a period of three (3) years. A unit that has received the AMSN PRISM Award® is encouraged to submit the application for redesignation at least three (3) months prior to the expiration of their current award. The unit must demonstrate ongoing achievement to receive consecutive AMSN PRISM Award® status.

Achieving medical-surgical units will receive a plaque to display in a prominent location on their unit.

The award will be personally presented to the medical-surgical unit/facility by a member of the AMSN or MSNCB board or their designated representative. Units are encouraged to invite staff, administration, physicians, patient/families, or other appropriate individuals to the award ceremony. Units may consider holding the award ceremony during Medical-Surgical Nurses Week, November 1-7, or National Nurses Week, May 6-12.

The unit’s name, facility, and location will be announced at the AMSN Annual Convention and displayed on the AMSN and MSNCB websites and social media. The unit will also be recognized in the AMSN and MSNCB e-newsletters.

Recipients will receive the AMSN PRISM Award Recipient seal artwork with permission and guidelines to use it to promote their achievement in advertisements, annual reports, flyers, newsletters, etc.

Please feel free to download these documents as needed:

- AMSN PRISM AWARD BLANK APPLICATION (to use for reference--cannot be used to submit a final application)
- AMSN PRISM AWARD PAYMENT FORM
- AMSN PRISM AWARD SAMPLE PLAQUE

Application Section/Criteria Introduction

The five (5) criteria categories for the award application are:

- Category 1: Patient/Care Management
- Category 2: Holistic Patient Care
- Category 3: Elements of Interprofessional Care
- Category 4: Professional Concepts
- Category 5: Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration

Supporting Evidence (SE) must be provided to indicate how the criteria are met. Provide a complete narrative description or response to the questions rather than an answer with a few words or phrases. Examples are provided with each question to clarify the information being requested. Refrain from providing a reference to other questions within the application or external information such as a website—all information must be provided within the application. Applications will be weighed based on how they meet the criteria. The more information provided the better!
Instructions

In many cases, the requirements above require the applicant to describe the technique, strategy, and/or method used to address a specific criterion across the medical-surgical nursing practice specific to the applicant’s unit. In each requirement, the applicant may need to describe, explain, demonstrate, report, chart and/or provide tables and/or examples. When responding to the requirements, the requirement may be specific to include and/or exclude certain elements. Finally, the applicant may be required to provide a data table that includes pre-data, the intervention, and post-data.

Instructions and Examples for Questions Requiring Data

Designated questions requiring supporting evidence (SE) will be identified with the SE initialism. Based on what is asked in the question, provide an example with supporting evidence that demonstrates the achievement of a unit goal, shows an improved outcome, or displays survey results. Submit the supporting evidence in the form of a graph with a data table. The graph must include a minimum of one pre-data point, clear indication of when the improvement intervention occurred, and a minimum of two post-intervention data points.

Below are examples of acceptable graphs. Brackets are not required, but the reader must be able to clearly understand when the improvement intervention and the post-intervention data occurred.
Example of Bar Graph

Example of Line Graph
Example of a Bar Graph Displaying Unit Data and a Benchmark

General Medical Center, Medical-Surgical Unit
Patient Satisfaction - Explained Things in a Way Patients Can Understand

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% Top Box</th>
<th>Q3 2021</th>
<th>Q4 2021</th>
<th>Q1 2022</th>
<th>Q2 2022</th>
<th>Q3 2022</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>% Top Box During this hospital stay, how often did nurses explain things in a way you could understand?</td>
<td>40.9</td>
<td>42.8</td>
<td>60</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Press Ganey - Medical - Median (Top Box%) Benchmark</td>
<td>58.6</td>
<td>57.9</td>
<td>57.4</td>
<td>57.2</td>
<td>57.2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Example of Bar Graph Displaying Data from Two Surveys

General Medical Center, Medical-Surgical Unit
RN Satisfaction

Mean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Autonomy</th>
<th>Professional Development</th>
<th>Leadership Access</th>
<th>Interprofessional Relationships</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2020 RN Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>5.01</td>
<td>4.64</td>
<td>4.6</td>
<td>4.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2021 RN Satisfaction Survey</td>
<td>5.31</td>
<td>4.87</td>
<td>4.91</td>
<td>5.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### Category 1: Patient Care/Management

#### A. Patient Safety

1. Improving Patient Safety (SE)

Select one of the following areas below when the outcomes were not meeting expectations and describe how the unit outcomes improved.
- **Patient Safety**
  1. Hospital acquired conditions (i.e., pressure injury prevention, fall prevention, restraint reduction, blood transfusion error reduction)
  2. Restraint reduction
  3. Blood transfusion error reduction
  4. Alarm fatigue
  5. Identifying and mitigating risks associated with behavioral health
- **Infection Prevention**
  1. Hospital acquired infections (i.e., C-DIFF, MRSA, CLABSI, CAUTI)
- **Medication Safety Management**
- **Pain Management**

When describing the improvement process, include the following:
1. Specific metric
2. Plan
3. Goal(s)
4. Intervention(s)
5. Outcome(s)
6. Description of how direct care staff participate in the process

Include a graph with a data table

### Category 2: Holistic Patient Care

#### A. Patient Centered Care

2. Improving Patient Centered Care (SE)

Describe how the unit responded to an area of improvement related to the patient satisfaction survey results for the unit. **Explain** any gaps in survey reporting, if needed.

**Include:**
1. Measurement method used (i.e., third party vendor such as Press-Ganey, Non-Compliance Rating [NCR])
2. Specific nurse-sensitive patient satisfaction indicator(s) addressed (i.e., nursing communication, transition of care, discharge instructions)
3. Improvement plan implemented including participation of direct care nurses
4. Outcomes in response to the intervention(s)
5. **Include a graph with a data table**
### Category 2: Holistic Patient Care (continued)

#### A. Patient Centered Care (continued)

3. **Applying Strategies to Encourage Collaboration**

**Describe three (3) separate innovative strategies used to encourage collaboration in the following categories:**

- Patients/families
- Nursing colleagues
- Other members of the healthcare team

**Include:**

1. Direct care nurse involvement of development, implementation, and/or sustainability of each strategy

#### 4. Promoting Patient Empowerment*

*The WHO defines empowerment as “a process through which people gain greater control over decisions and actions affecting their health.” (Health promotion glossary. Geneva: World Health Organization; 1998.)*

**Provide an exemplar** that demonstrates patient empowerment on the unit throughout the hospital stay.

**Include:**

1. The patient’s knowledge of their role
2. Acquisition of knowledge to engage with their provider(s)
3. Patient’s skills
4. Presence of a facilitating environment

### Category 2: Holistic Patient Care (continued)

#### B. Diversity and Inclusion

5. **Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Patients**

**Provide an exemplar** which demonstrates:

1. Identification and mitigation of biases to provide optimal patient centered care
2. Application of diversity, equity, and inclusion to patient care
3. Identification of social determinants of health for a patient (e.g., food, finances, transportation, housing, medications)

- Recognition of
- Educational offerings for staff and patients
- Patient education with consideration of literacy levels and languages
### C. Palliative/End-of-life Care

#### 6. Demonstrating Care and Compassion for End of Life or Chronic Disease

Provide an exemplar to illustrate how concepts of care and compassion were provided by the healthcare team for a patient at the end of life or with chronic disease throughout the hospital stay.

**Address** the following elements:
1. Staff involvement from all shifts
2. Promotion of patient dignity
3. Communication/collaboration of the healthcare team
4. Participation and support of family and significant others in the care process
5. Individualized plan of care based on patient/family preference(s) and collaboration with the care team
6. Support provided to the healthcare team during and after the time of care
7. Sensitivity to cultural and/or religious beliefs and practices

Examples May Include
- Creative approaches to care
- Interprofessional plan of care
- Recognition of religious rituals, cultural beliefs, and traditions at the end-of-life

### Category 3: Elements of Interprofessional Care

#### A. Interprofessional Collaboration

#### 7. Demonstrating Interprofessional Communication

Describe one (1) strategy used to enhance interprofessional communication.

**Include:**
1. An example of when interprofessional communication was not as effective as expected and the steps taken to implement a change
2. The outcome following this change
3. The role of each team member
4. Evidence that the communication was effective

Examples May Include
- Wishes of patients not recognized by providers
- Delays in discharge due to miscommunication
- Hand-off communication
### B. Care Coordination & Transition Management

#### 8. Reducing Length of Stay or Readmission (SE)

**Describe** the interprofessional process(es) that are implemented to reduce the length of stay or readmission on the medical-surgical unit.

Include:
1. Processes utilized
2. The role of each interprofessional team member
3. Evidence the strategies reduced the length of stay or readmission improved and/or sustained excellence
4. **Include a graph with a data table** demonstrating six (6) months of data post implementation of a new strategy or 12 months of data

#### Examples May Include
- Care coordination rounds
- Team rounds
- Family conferences

### Category 4: Professional Concepts

#### A. Communication

#### 9. Demonstrating Communication Strategies

**Describe** how unit leaders facilitate bidirectional communication between the medical-surgical unit and senior nursing leadership.

Include:
1. Communication regarding the organization’s strategic plan
2. Communication regarding the nursing strategic plan
3. Escalation of unit staff input or concern to senior nursing leadership

#### Examples May Include
- Huddles
- Townhall meetings

### Category 4: Professional Concepts (continued)

#### B. Healthy Practice Environment

#### 10. Managing Unit Staffing

**Describe** how the unit’s staffing plans and daily assignments are developed.

Include:
1. Factors considered (e.g., skill mix, patient acuity, direct care staff experience, unit turbulence/churn/throughput, etc.)
2. How changes to the staffing plan are communicated to direct care staff
3. The process by which direct care staff are actively engaged with staffing decisions
4. Provide the process/method on how staff reports unsafe staffing

#### Examples May Include
- Assessment of patient acuity
- Revision of staffing to meet patient care demands
- Scheduling committees

#### 11. Attracting New Staff

**Describe** the strategies on how unit nursing staff members, including unlicensed assistive personnel, are involved in attracting new staff members to the unit.

#### Examples May Include
- Forming relationships with nursing students
- Organizational referral programs
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Examples May Include</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>● Offering shadowing experiences to high school, college students, and community members interested in the healthcare profession</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### 12. Promoting Collegiality

**Describe** the structures and/or processes in place to promote collegiality on the unit (among staff members as well as improving collegiality with members of the interdisciplinary team).

**Include:**
1. Examples of how unit staff are recognized and rewarded
2. How multigenerational and multicultural differences are embraced

**Examples**
- Staff recognition
- Team-building events such as fund-raising walks
- Unit participation in community service projects

### 13. Onboarding and Orientation

**Describe** the unit’s orientation and onboarding plan. What systems and structures are in place to support inclusivity of new staff members?

**Include:**
1. Length of orientation
2. Preceptor selection and training
3. Competency-based orientation (i.e., residency/fellowship programs, etc.)
4. How orientation is **individualized** to each new grad versus an experienced nurse, and an in-hospital transfer nurse versus a nurse new to the organization
5. An exemplar of a new hire orientation that needed to be modified to meet the needs of that nurse

**Examples**
- Preceptor classes
- Residency/fellowship programs/externship programs

### Category 4: Professional Concepts (continued)

#### B. Healthy Practice Environment (continued)

### 14. Involving Staff with the Interview Process

**Describe** how direct care nurses (DCN) are involved in the interviewing and selection of new staff.

**Include:**
1. The process of how DCN are involved with the interview process
2. Rationale for number of DCN interviewers
3. The diversity of the team members involved in the interview process
4. The process on how team members are included in the applicant’s interview and selection
5. How are the DCNs trained to interview?

**Examples**
- Multishift team involvement
- Scripts for interview questions
- Include other assistive personnel (e.g., PCT, PCA, unit administrators)

### 15. Creating a Healthy Work Environment
Describe the unit’s formal and informal processes and strategies to reduce adverse outcomes related to practice environment safety.

Provide examples of education that has been provided to direct care staff for each of the bullets below.

Include:
1. Physical injury prevention (e.g., needle sticks, back injuries, workplace violence)
2. Improving direct care staff resilience and self-care (e.g., lateral violence, burnout, absenteeism)
3. Include support resources available to direct care staff (e.g., Employee Assistance Program (EAP), team training, behavioral emergency response team)

Examples May Include
- Debriefings (i.e., Critical Incident Stress Management)
- Mindfulness and stress reduction activities
- Implicit bias training
- Training on micro and macroaggressions in the workplace

16. Promoting and Supporting Educational/Conference Activities

Describe examples of unit support toward direct care staff attendance to local, regional, national, and international education/conference activities.

Include:
1. Selection process(es) of direct care nurses to attend conferences
2. Evidence of support (i.e., time off policy, budget)

Table:
1. Date
2. Name of Conference
3. Type of Conference (international, national, regional, local)
4. Number of direct care nurses in attendance

Example of Table for Question #16

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Name of Conference</th>
<th>Type of Conference (international, national, regional, local)</th>
<th>Number of Direct Care Staff in Attendance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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</table>

Note: This question is not asking for internal activities

17. Promoting Staff Retention

Describe unit level strategies used to reduce turnover and enhance retention. If hospital or system level processes are used, explain how the process is enculturated on the unit. Provide a rationale (if applicable) of how the strategies to reduce negative turnover were unsuccessful.

Examples May Include
- Promoting collegiality
- Offering incentives (i.e., tuition reimbursement)
- Staff recognition
- Professional development opportunities
Definitions:
1. Negative turnover may include a nurse who was not meeting performance expectations and was terminated.
2. Positive turnover may include a nurse who transferred to the same hospital’s intensive care unit to pursue career goals.

Table:
1. Most recent annual rate
2. Previous year’s annual rate

Example of Table for Question #17

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Most Recent Annual Rate</th>
<th>Previous Year’s Annual Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Overall Facility</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Applying Med-Surg Unit</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To calculate turnover rate: Divide the number of terminations during a one-year period by the number of employees at the beginning of that period. (e.g., if the year starts with 50 med-surg unit staff and 10 staff terminate (voluntary or involuntary), the turnover rate is 10/50 = 0.2 or 20%. Units are not required to use this formula if the organization calculates turnover rates using an alternate formula. Describe the alternate formula in the narrative.

18. Promoting Staff Satisfaction (SE)

Describe how the unit responded to one area of improvement related to a recent nurse or staff satisfaction survey (i.e., NDNQI) for the unit. Explain any gaps in survey reporting, if needed.

Include:
1. Measurement method used (external or internal data collection)*
2. Specific staff satisfaction indicator addressed
   a. Provide rationale for choosing this indicator (i.e., not achieving benchmark, indicator scored lower than score on previous survey)
3. Improvement plan implemented
4. Outcomes in response to the intervention
5. Include a graph with a data table showing the two most recent survey results for the chosen indicator and include the benchmark.

*If your hospital changed scoring tools, so that providing data from the same tool is not possible, provide data and the benchmark used for each tool.
### 19. Promoting Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion for Unit Staff

**Describe three (3) strategies** showing how multigenerational and multicultural differences are applied to nursing practice. **Identify** how diversity, equity, and inclusion has been integrated into the unit culture.

- Recognition of rituals and cultural beliefs
- Team-building activities/exercises
- Use and identification of preferred pronouns and name(s)

### A. Scope of Practice and Ethics

### 20. Ensuring Staff Competency

**Describe** how the unit measures and maintains the competence of its staff.

**Include:**

1. Model or framework used
2. Rationale/evidence for why the model or framework was chosen
3. How direct care nurses are involved

- Staff educational needs assessment
- Methods of validation
  - Role playing
  - Direct observation
  - Simulation
- Competency model
  - AMSN Competency Framework
  - Internal competency model
  - Other evidence-based competency model

### Category 4: Professional Concepts (continued)

### B. Quality Management

### 21. Improving Clinical Outcomes (SE)

**Select one** clinical improvement initiative based on the unit’s patient population and scope of service.

**Describe** how the unit achieved or is in the process of achieving improved patient outcomes as a result of the clinical improvement initiative. Below are the patient outcomes to focus on.

**Include:**

1. A description of the pre-intervention outcome data that drove the goal and the initiative for improvement
2. A clear description of the clinical improvement initiative
3. A description of the pre- and post-intervention data
4. A description of the implementation date of the intervention
5. **Include a graph with a data table** using the information from above numbered bullets. Use a minimum of three data points.

- Sepsis
- Central Line Bloodstream infections (CLABSI)
- Catheter-associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI)
- For more examples, please visit www.medicare.gov
## Category 4: Professional Concepts (continued)

### D. Quality Management (continued)

#### 22. Involving Staff in Quality Improvement Projects

Provide two examples of direct care nurse involvement from your unit in quality improvement projects (unit or system).

Include:
1. A description of the study or project that the nurse(s) were involved with and their participation
2. Provide the number of nurse(s) who participated
3. How the project was selected
4. Dissemination of project results (staff publications, podium or poster presentations related to unit-based projects, etc.)

#### 23. Evaluating and Sustaining Quality Improvement

Describe the quality improvement structures and processes to identify, develop, manage, evaluate, and sustain initiatives on the medical-surgical unit.

Include one unit-specific example of an initiative that followed one or more of the described quality improvement structures and processes.

- Plan Do Study Act (PDSA)/Plan Do Check Act (PDCA)
- Six Sigma
- Root cause analysis (RCA)
- Lean methodology

### E. Evidence-Based Practice and Research

#### 24. Developing Individualized Plan of Care (IPOC)

Describe an example of how nurses create an individualized plan of care to address patient goals, preferences, and clinical outcomes.

Include:
1. How the nurse identifies and assess patient preferences, needs, and goals
2. How the individualized plan of care is communicated to all healthcare team members
3. How often the individualized plan of care is reviewed and/or updated
4. How the updated individualized plan of care is communicated to all healthcare team members

- Interprofessional collaboration
25. Promoting Staff Participation in Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Research

**Describe** the unit and organization resources available to support direct care nurse participation in EBP projects and research studies.

**Include:**
1. **Three examples** of the resources available to support direct care nurse participation in EBP projects and research studies.
   - Utilization of a nursing research scientist or a nurse researcher
   - A learning module on how to conduct EBP projects
   - Nursing research council

26. Disseminating Quality Improvement (QI), Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) or Research

**Describe** how QI, EBP, or research conducted on the unit or at a system level is disseminated.

**Include:**
1. **Two examples** of when QI, EBP, and/or research is conducted. Each category may be used more than once.
   a. Dissemination of a system level initiative involving direct care nurses from the unit
   b. Dissemination of a unit-based initiative involving unit leaders and direct care nurses
   - Research symposia
   - Research updated communication via practice council or shared governance
   - Local, regional, national, and international conferences

27. Translating Evidence-Based Practice (EBP) and Research into Policy and Procedure

**Describe** the process on how evidence-based practices and research are incorporated into policies and procedures.

**Include:**
1. One example of how evidence-based practice or research was incorporated into a policy or procedure
2. How direct care nurses on the unit are involved in policy development and revision
   - Organizational policy committees
   - Online point of care resources
   - Other references

Category 5: Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration

**A. Professional Development**

28. Participating in Professional Development Opportunities

**Provide** ten examples of direct care nurse professional development activities based on or aligned with individually assessed professional and/or unit needs.

**Note:** Exclude periodic job required education/competencies (e.g., BLS, restraints, unit-specific skills)

**Table:**
In the table below, provide ten examples of professional development opportunities with the following information:
1. Title/Topic of Educational Activity
2. Type of Activity (i.e., competency, conferences, etc.)
   - AMSN professional development opportunities
   - Professional development offering (i.e., education delivered within the organization, on a webinar, etc.)
   - Grand rounds
3. Date of opportunity
4. Provider (i.e., individual, organization, system, local provider such as local AMSN chapter, national organization such as the annual AMSN conference)
5. Provide two to three sentences explaining why the direct care nurse pursued this professional development opportunity

### 29. Facilitating Lifelong Learning

**Describe** the structure and processes that the organization and unit utilize to support lifelong learning of unit staff.

**Include** an example of direct care nurses utilizing resources available for each of the following:

1. **Specialty certification for nursing staff**
   - **Percentage of Eligible Nurses Nationally Certified**
     - **Total Number of RNs on Unit**: [ ]
     - **Number Eligible for Certification**: [ ]
     - **List Specialty Certifications / Number of Eligible Nurses Certified in Each**: [ ]
     - **Staff Certified in**: [ ]
     - **Staff Certified in**: [ ]
     - **Staff Certified in**: [ ]
     - **Total Certified Staff**: [ ]
   - **Percentage of eligible RNs who are Certified (Total Certified/Eligible)**

2. **Higher education**
   - **Higher Education Pursued**
     - **Pursuing Registered Nurse**
     - **Pursuing Baccalaureate Degree**
     - **Pursuing Master’s Degree**
     - **Pursuing Doctorate Degree**
     - **Pursuing Other (please specify)**
   - **Total Actively Pursuing Advanced Education**

3. **Staff involvement in service to nursing profession (i.e., publication, professional nursing organization membership, etc.)**
   - **Type of service to nursing profession**
     - **Details**
     - **Date/Date Range**
     - **Number of Participating Nurses**

4. **Staff involvement in service to the community through nursing focused volunteering activities**
   - **Type of service to the community**
     - **Details**
     - **Date/Date Range**
     - **Number of Participating Nurses**

5. **Education provided by nurses on the medical-surgical unit**
   - **Title/Topic of Education Activity**
     - **Date of activity**
     - **Role of Unit Presenter (i.e., NM/NNM, CNS, CNL/NPUS, CNL, DCN)**
     - **Audience (i.e., other units, students, community, national conference)**

*At least 50% of the examples must identify the direct care nurses providing the education*
Category 5: Nursing Teamwork and Collaboration (continued)

B. Leadership

30. Fostering Leadership Development

AMSN recognizes two primary types of leadership: clinical and staff leadership: clinical and staff leadership (defined below). Clinical leadership and staff leadership are not positions. They are roles and/or functions.

- **Clinical leadership** is essential to implement the nursing process consistently and effectively. Regardless of formal authority, nurses lead an interprofessional care team and are responsible for patient safety and quality outcomes.

- **Staff leadership** is important for healthy practice environments and advocacy for the medical-surgical nurse. Shared decision-making and professional autonomy are required to ensure adequate resources and appropriate staff assignments. These activities contribute to the staff's ability to achieve the unit's standards of nursing practice.

Describe unit and/or organizational processes that foster leadership development.

Include:
1. Individual clinical leadership exemplar
2. Individual staff leadership exemplar

- Clinical leadership:
  - Shared governance/shared decision-making member,
  - Assists with establishing unit goals and/or practice changes on the unit
- Staff leadership:
  - Chairperson of shared governance/shared decision-making
  - Ensuring adequate staff (i.e., direct care nurse in a charge nurse role)
ANM
Assistant Nurse Manager

Certification
The formal recognition of the specialized knowledge, skills, and experience demonstrated by the achievement of standards identified by a nursing specialty to promote optimal health outcomes.

Clinical Leadership
Manages the structure and processes required to obtain positive clinical, quality and safety outcomes.

CNE
Clinical Nurse Educator

CNL
Clinical Nurse Leader

CNS
Clinical Nurse Specialist

DCN
Direct Care Nurse

Exemplar
A story that highlights excellence.

Mentorship
A guided experience, formally or informally assigned, over a mutually agreed upon period, that empowers the mentor and mentee to develop personally and professionally within the auspices of a caring, collaborative, culturally competent, and respectful environment.

NM
Nurse Manager

NPDS
Nurse Professional Development Specialist
Outcomes  
Measurable, expected patient-focused goals.

Staff Leadership  
Manages direct reports to ensure the appropriate resources are available to meet the practice’s standards of nursing practice.

Supporting Evidence (SE)  
Outcomes and improvements nurses are able to make through best practices in nursing care, the nurse practice environment and patient experience.