

Valarie J. Higgins, A.C.N.P. of K.P.A.
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QUALIFICATIONS:

I have had ten years of experience in frontier and rural medicine as a nurse practitioner. I have seen all ages of patients with a broad spectrum of problems. I have seen and treated everything from a minor laceration to dying patients. I am focused, mature, dedicated, a team player, and self-starting. I try as best I can to treat the entire person, not just the "illness".

EDUCATION:

1992-1997 Bachelor of Nursing, Olivet Nazarene University Kankakee, IL
1999-2000 Master of Nursing, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN

EMPLOYMENT:

- 07/2013—Present **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Kentuckiana Pulmonary Associates, Louisville, KY.** I am one of the nurse practitioners in the intensivist program who sees/cares for patients at the various facilities where the physicians care for pulmonary patients. I assist in admitting, attending to acute changes in patient conditions, update the medications as patient conditions evolve in the hospital setting. I am part of the healthcare team that will intubate and code patients when those events occur. I communicate with the attending physicians, pharmacists, lab, radiology, nursing staff, patients and families as to the treatments for our patients.
- 03/3012—06/2013 **Registered Nurse, Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Healthcare, Louisville, KY.** I am a staff nurse in the 4 Towers ICU. I manage teams of one to three patients, assist in coding patients, work with IABP's, Sawn Ganz catheters, A-Lines, cardiac catheterization sheaths, Vigileo monitors, and run CRRT/HD treatments. I communicate with physicians, pharmacists, lab/x-ray technicians, charge/staff nurses and families to help ensure that the patients get the treatments which are needed. I serve as a resource for the newer nurses to help them adjust into the ICU/Acute Care environment.
- 06/2012—06/2013t **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Spectrum Healthcare Services, Louisville, KY.** I am a PRN nurse practitioner who fills in for other NP's who are on sick leave or vacation time. This is an out-patient setting/doctor's office, where patients are seen for weight loss.
- 01/2012—02/2012 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Fayette Regional Health Systems, Connersville, IN.** I was a nurse practitioner in the hospitalist program. I admitted and cared for patients from the emergency department as well as direct admissions from local physician offices. I worked closely with the physician and other nurse practitioner to care for patients with acute exacerbations of COPD, DKA, acute/evolving strokes, CHF exacerbations, acute coronary syndromes, and sepsis from a variety of sources. I would also collaborate with social services to establish long term care in nursing homes, home health, as well as establish patients with hospice care.
- 08/2009—12/2011 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Iroquois Memorial Hospital, Watseka, IL.** I was a nurse practitioner in a hospital owned rural clinic. I was one of a team of four healthcare providers who helped give care to the populations of several rural areas in Indiana as well as Illinois. I saw patients ranging from newborn to geriatric. I helped patients deal with acute issues of illness from the common cold, to lacerations, diabetic complications, COPD exacerbations, mental health issues, allergy problems, and other ailments. I worked with

the rest of the team to make sure that the correct tests/labs/medical imaging studies, medicines and therapies were prescribed to fit the patients' needs while being aware of their budgetary concerns.

- 04/2010—05/2010 **Instructor Olivet Nazarene University School of Graduate and Continuing Studies, Kankakee, IL.** I was an on-line instructor for NRS 326 Community Health Nursing, and NRS 411 Advanced Health Nursing for RN students completing their BSN degree. I was able to give instruction, grade assignments per preset guidelines, answer questions, and give them direction and encouragement in the community health nursing course. I asked them to consider various scenarios from different perspectives as well.
- 08/2007—08/2009 **Registered Nurse, Jewish Hospital & St. Mary's Healthcare, Louisville, KY.** I was a staff nurse in the 4 Towers ICU. I managed teams of one to three patients, assisted in coding patients, worked with IABP's, Swan Ganz catheters, A-Lines, cardiac catheterization sheaths, Vigileo monitors, and ran CRRT treatments. I communicated with physicians, pharmacists, lab/x-ray technicians, charge/staff nurses and families to help ensure that the patients got the treatments which were needed. I served as a resource for the newer nurses to help them adjust into the ICU/Acute Care setting.
- 11/2006—07/2007 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Harrison County Hospital, Corydon, IN.** I was the nurse practitioner working with an internal medicine physician, seeing patients in the office and in the nursing home. I treated COPD/asthma exacerbations, diabetic complications, acute/chronic pain management, laceration repairs, acute/chronic psychiatric issues, myocardial/chest pain, allergic reactions. Full radiology and lab tests were done at Harrison County Hospital fifteen miles east of the office.
- 09/2006—09/2006 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Comp Health, Priority One Medicine, Indianapolis, IN.** I was the nurse practitioner for an integrated practice. I oversaw rehabilitation exercises, electrical muscle therapies, strappings, and administered trigger point injections. This was a short term assignment as I was filling in for a physician's assistant on vacation.
- 12/2003—06/2006 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Alice Hyde Medical Center's Dwyer Health Center, Moira, NY.** I was the nurse practitioner at the health center. I saw patients with asthma, COPD exacerbations, laceration repairs, diabetic complications, myocardial/chest pains, acute sinusitis/bronchitis, and allergic reactions. I also saw psychiatric patients with bipolar disorder, PTSD, depression, schizophrenia, and acutely suicidal patients. Full radiology and stat lab tests were performed at the nearest hospital 20 miles away. I practiced autonomously with the collaborating physician available by phone or fax.
- 11/2000—10/2003 **Acute Care Nurse Practitioner, Daniels Memorial Healthcare Facility, Scobey, MT.** I was responsible for a forty-eight bed nursing home, six bed hospital, two-bed emergency room and a clinic. I took call every other week for one full week at a time. I cared for all ages of patients, newborn to geriatric. I worked with illnesses ranging from minor cuts to life-threatening heart attacks, strokes, and cancer, diabetes and farm/ranch accidents. I also worked with legal/ethical issues around end-of-life illnesses. I practice autonomously in the clinic and had five percent of my hospital patients reviewed by a collaborating physician.
- 05/1999—09/1999 **Registered Nurse, Trauma Unit, Vanderbilt University Hospital, Nashville, TN.** I worked in the trauma unit as a nurse taking care of patients just brought in by air and ground ambulance. The patients came from vehicle accidents, shootings, or other traumatic events. I worked with ventilators, central lines, cardiac and neurological monitors. I assisted the physicians in stabilizing patients and helped families understand what was happening to their loved ones.