

Radiology Nursing At a Glance

"If you are looking for something future-oriented, radiology nursing is it," says **Kim Rice**, RN, a radiology nurse at **Loyola University Medical Center**. "We do so many non-invasive procedures, but they're big important procedures. We're only going to be doing more as the technology advances." The cutting-edge technology in radiology is a natural draw for nurses, and it is also the reason that radiology nursing has such an exciting future. As technology grows more and more advanced, there will continue to be a need for more radiology nurses.

While some smaller community hospitals do not have radiology nurses on staff, the large, educational medical centers and Level I Trauma Centers often have them on staff. In the past, the stigma was that radiology was where older nurses went at the end of their careers. However, times have changed significantly. "Don't expect any other kind of nursing that you have done before," says Rice. "Don't expect it to be a place where old nurses go just to rest; my feet are tired every day from all the running around that I do! You always hear nurses say, 'When I am old and ready to retire I'll go to radiology.' That is not the case anymore."

In fact, radiology nursing is an extremely independent area of nursing that has grown into its own subspecialty. "It is truly an area of nursing that is a new frontier," says **Dilyss Gallyot**, RN, MS, CCRN, a radiology nurse at **Central DuPage Hospital**.

As a highly autonomous area of nursing, radiology may not be the best place for a new graduate to get his/her feet wet. "The more exposure you have to different things, the easier it is to deal with the complex patient population [in radiology]," says **Lana Tadros**, RN, BSN, a radiology nurse at **Northwestern Memorial Hospital**.

Get Connected!

For the latest breakthroughs and news, check out these resources:

American Radiological Nurses Association: www.arna.net

American Radiological Nurses Association, Windy City chapter: www.arna.net

Radiological Society of North America: www.rsna.org

American Association of Critical-Care Nurses: www.aacn.org

Critical Care Nurse: <http://ccn.aacnjournals.org>

Illinois Center for Nursing Advisory Board: <http://www.nursing.illinois.gov/aboutboard.htm>

American Nurse Credentialing Center: www.nursecredentialing.org

American Nurses Association (ANA): www.nursingworld.org

Illinois Coalition for Nursing Resources: www.ic4nr.org

Until a year ago, Dudash was the only radiology nurse at **St. James Hospital's** Olympia Fields campus. Thus, she had to help define her role in the department from the beginning. "It was completely different from the unit," she remembers. "In the unit you're running like crazy. When I first came down here, because there wasn't a nurse, people didn't always know how to utilize me in some of the department. So I had to put myself out there and jump in on their territory."

Biggest rewards in radiology nursing: Patient education is a huge part of radiology nursing. "You get to do a lot more teaching with patients and a lot more supportive care," says Dudash. "With a lot of patients we're doing biopsies and sedations, so they come in and there is a lot going through their minds. So you get a chance to really be supportive."

Biggest challenges in radiology nursing: "I love bedside nursing and patient care, so the administrative stuff and the policy things that I wasn't used to having anything to do with [was a challenge]," says Dudash. "That has been more challenging for me than anything. It's not challenging in a difficult way, just different challenging."

Being a good radiology nurse: Radiology nurses often support their patients both emotionally and physically. "Patients are not always sick when they come in here," says Dudash. "They are frightened and scared, just like some patients up on the floor. But it is different explaining things to a patient who is awake, alert, well and worried. You have to really take care of their psyche here, especially with biopsy patients. You have to remember they are here and scared to death because they don't know what they are going to hear or what they will find out afterward."

Favorite way to unwind: "We have a boat on Lake Michigan and wave-runners and all the toys. So we hang out with our friends on the docks, cruise Lake Michigan and read."

Kim Rice, RN

Radiology staff nurse at Loyola University Medical Center in Maywood



Kim Rice, RN

Her story: After having two children, **Kim Rice**, RN, decided to take some nursing classes, which eventually resulted into a thriving 17-year nursing career. Rice started her career at **Loyola University Medical Center** and worked in a number of different units before spending five years in the emergency department. To take a break from the fast paced ED, Rice headed down to radiology, where she planned to stay for just six months.

But, four years later, Rice is still enjoying radiology. "It is not as fast-paced as the ER or ICU, but it still remains interesting to me," says Rice. One of the biggest draws for Rice is the cutting-edge technology that goes hand-in-hand with radiology. She does a number of procedures that range from a simple line placement to major procedures like TIPS. She also does interventional radiology and works with a number of other departments from cardiology to urology. "I learn something new every day here," says Rice.

Biggest rewards in radiology nursing: "You actually have time to talk to the patients and get to know their families," she says. "You're not in that rushed mode."

Biggest challenges in radiology nursing: Because radiology nurses see so many different patients, they must learn many different procedures. "The challenge is learning all the different modalities and procedures and the nurse's role

in each one," says Rice.

Being a good radiology nurse: "You have to notice subtle changes in people," says Rice. "You are the one who is primarily watching the ABCs of patients when you're doing the sedation. The physicians absolutely rely on your nursing skills and judgment when you are working with them."

Favorite way to unwind: "I spend a lot of time with my family. I have a five year old granddaughter and I have fun with her. Also, any time I can go on vacation, I will." • NL

Have a story idea?

Know someone exceptional in nursing who deserves to be featured?

Email chicagoeditor@nurseslounge.com

Behavioral Health

Saints Mary and Elizabeth Medical Center, located in the Bucktown/Wicker Park neighborhood has the following nursing opportunities available:

Advanced Practice Nurse

Use your advanced practice skills to provide nursing services to patients and their families. You will diagnose and manage illnesses, promote healthy life styles and teach disease prevention. Current IL license and APN certification in Behavioral Health required.

Nurse Manager

This is an excellent opportunity to enhance your leadership skills as a Nurse Manager. Your communication, leadership and organizational skills are essential for the management of Behavioral Health Services and Substance Abuse Programs. You will also be responsible for fiscal management, as well as staff development and education. Previous management/supervisory experience is required.

To explore these opportunities, please apply online, Ph: (312) 770-2124 or send resumes to: CDouglas@Reshealthcare.org

www.reshealth.jobs

For All of You, All of Your Career.



For All of You, All of Your Life

108

Looking for satisfaction?

We believe that a happy workforce translates to better patient care. That's why *employee satisfaction* is our #1 goal. In fact, our **employee retention rate exceeds the national standard for the hospice industry by 10 percentage points.**

Our values — *ethics, respect, challenge, service* — combined with excellent compensation, benefits and work culture make us the region's hospice employer of choice.



Currently recruiting:

- RNs (traditional and in-patient)
- LPNs (in-patient)
- Bereavement counselors
- Manager of social services
- Pediatric coordinator
- Clinical educator

1.847.381.5599 ext. 365
Email: smilinkovic@HospiceAnswers.org
www.HospiceAnswers.org

HOSPICE
of Northeastern Illinois