



Volunteer Ward Nurse

Preferred 8 Week Commitment



Role Description

Provide holistic patient care for inpatient surgical patients, functioning within the clinical standards set by Mercy Ships. Specialties include maxillofacial, reconstructive plastic, obstetric fistula repair, general and orthopedic surgery. Experience in one of the above surgical specialties preferred. Surgical experience is essential.

Education and Experience

- Commitments 12 months or more require successful completion of On Boarding Program
- Registered Nurse with active license in home country
- Current Basic Life Support (BLS) required
- ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) preferred
- PALS (Pediatric Advanced Life Support) optional
- Minimum two years' experience following licensure
- Recent acute inpatient surgical/medical/Emergency Room experience of at least two years full-time or three years part-time in the past 5 years AND at the point of application can show working 30 hours or more per week in any of these clinical areas within the past 12 months

Qualifications

- Supportive of Mercy Ships mission and vision, and committed to its core values
- Understand and apply servant leadership, work collaboratively with integrity and demonstrate accountability
- Able to live in and contribute to community life, requiring stable and healthy interpersonal skills
- Fluency in written and verbal English language with strong interpersonal communication skills
- Physical Assessment Skills
- Willingness to teach and share clinical knowledge with other
- Requires flexibility and sensitivity to language & cultural diversity
- Has healthy affirming relationships and exhibits integrity in professional and personal life
- Ability to effectively work with others in a cross-cultural environment
- It should be noted our ward beds are lower than average and are non-adjustable, which may prove to be a problem to anyone with a chronic back issue

Impact

Over 2.8 million lives have been transformed by our work since 1978, an average of 66,000 services offered per year.

- We have completed more than 1,110 community development projects including the reconstruction of schools, clinics, orphanages, water wells and agriculture programmes. Providing local training and infrastructure to enable and sustain their future success.
- We have trained more than 6,600 local professionals (including surgeons) who have in turn trained many others, over 252,000 local people, in basic healthcare.
- The *Global Mercy* and the *Africa Mercy* are the two largest charity hospital ships in the world, and together hold 11 state-of-the-art operating theatres and 279 patient beds.
- We have provided care in over 55 of the world's developing nations.

Essential Duties and Responsibilities

- Administer holistic patient care to assigned patients and expect to care for both adults and children
- Coordinate patient care with the specialty Team Leaders, Charge Nurses, Hospitalist Physicians and Surgeons
- Employ recent surgical experience in providing post-operative care to patients
- Work rotating shifts as scheduled (including weekends) in a 40-hour work week, with additional hours as required to cover illness and other unforeseen circumstances
- Work alongside the Day Crew, requesting their assistance when needed and reporting any issues/problems to the Charge Nurse
- Maintain correct practices of infection control and safety
- Orients new nurses to the process whereby patients are cared for in the Ward, functioning as a mentor and teacher to advise the new nurse and serve as an example of best practice
- Participate in the local nurse education program as required – acting as both mentor and teacher
- Attend and participate in all devotions, Hospital Receptions and functions as needed. When unable to attend, due only to work-related duties, be responsible for obtaining the necessary information
- Participate in taking on-call time as Crew Duty Nurse as required. It should be noted that our ward beds are lower than average and are non-adjustable which may prove a problem to anyone with a chronic back problem
- Long-term crew expected to assist with ongoing program development and revisions of policies, procedures, patient care pathways, needs' list, and field service planning; or work in other departments when not on field service location
- Due to the ever changing staffing levels and field service rotations, all staff may be re-assigned to temporarily fill roles in other departments in a time of need
- Other duties as assigned

Our work

Mariama's story

Mariama is a lively and healthy baby, but a severe facial cleft strained her joyful smile. This facial cleft affected 7-month-old Mariama's lip and nose, making it difficult for her to eat and causing her parents to worry about their child's future.

Since paediatric services capable of treating baby Mariama's condition were not available near the family, local doctors directed her father to Senegal's capital city in hopes of finding help.

It was there that he heard about a hospital ship capable of providing healing for his little girl.

Soon after, Mariama received an operation onboard the *Africa Mercy* that repaired her cleft lip. After surgery, Mariama and her family stayed at the HOPE Centre, where her mother learned how to make nutritional baby formula and learned about the importance of nutrition for her child. Now, Mariama is home with her family, happy and healthy!

