

# NPGO BLAST

February 5, 2026

## UVA Nursing Practice Updates

[Click here](#) to read the full updates, and print & post for your practice area!

### Headlines:

Prevent Thermal Injuries When Using Heat Packs

Adult Peripheral Blood Culture Kits - Short Expiration Dates

Patient Safety Moment: 5 Rights of Medication Safety

U-500 Concentrated Insulin Conversion - Insulin Vial to Insulin Pen

This Week's Cardiac Rhythm Interpretation Challenge & Raffle

Past editions are available on the [NPGO Practice News](#) website.

## Champion Resources

Champion Resources & Weekly Updates [here](#).

## Clinical Career Ladder

**Reminder:** NPGO Clinical Career Ladder Advancement Preparation classes are held monthly (except December!) and enrollment is available in Workday. **Offerings** for 2026 are listed. Please contact [NPGO@uvahealth.org](mailto:NPGO@uvahealth.org) with any questions.

## Nursing Updates

### Time is Running Out! | Only Two Weeks Left to Submit a Nomination for the 2026 Nursing Excellence Awards

Take the time to recognize a deserving colleague by submitting a nomination for one of nine different award categories for the **Nursing Excellence Awards**. The deadline to submit is **Monday, February 16 at 2359**. Email [NPGO@uvahealth.org](mailto:NPGO@uvahealth.org) with questions.

- Review the **Nursing Excellence Awards webpage** for more information.
- The **Eligibility Grid** is a helpful resource to see which award categories are the best fit for a potential nominee.
- Utilize this **flyer** to encourage nominations among your team.

### 2026 Annual RN Certification Bonus & Champion Boot Camp

The deadline for the 2026 Annual RN Certification Bonus is **Saturday, February 28, 2026 at 2359**. **Click here** for instructions to update or add an **approved** professional board certification. Details and eligibility for the bonus are available **here**.

**Are you currently certified?** Take two minutes to log into Workday to *confirm that your active professional board certification* is entered appropriately and the expiration date is correct and not expired.

**Are you newly certified?** Enter your new professional board certification and ensure it is approved by your manager before the deadline. Select the RN approved certification with “-Specialty-” listed after the name.

**New Certification Champion? Register** for the next **Certification Champion Bootcamp**, hosted by the NPGO Professional Development Committee **Thursday, February 12, 1300-1500**, in person and via Zoom. Details available [here](#).

## Professional Development

### 2026 Annual Evidence-Based Practice Symposium

The Center of Nursing Excellence proudly announces the **2026 EBP Symposium**. This year's event will highlight emerging tools that streamline and accelerate the evidence-based practice (EBP) process. Contact hours will be provided.

**When:** Wednesday, May 6 – Two options to select from:

**AM Session:** 0800-1130

**PM Session:** 1300-1630

**Where:** The Wool Factory, located at 1837 Broadway Street, Charlottesville

**Registration:**

[Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Symposium 2026 - AM Session](#)

[Nursing Evidence-Based Practice Symposium 2026 - PM Session](#)

### Nurse Leader Development Program Opportunity

The next offering of the Nurse Leader Development Program begins **February 18, 2026**. Newly expanded, this **ten-class series** is crafted to elevate the leadership acumen and professional capabilities of nurse leaders and will now award a total of **23 contact hours** upon successful completion! The program is available to all Nursing Directors, Nurse Managers, Assistant Nurse Managers, and Charge Nurses.

Interested? Please contact [Drew Gogian](#) to get enrolled in the next cohort!

### Nursing Advocacy Initiative Training Sessions Open!

Last week, Nursing Advocacy Initiative (NAI) nurse ambassadors traveled to Richmond and participated in Advocacy Day at the Virginia General Assembly, where they spoke with legislators in support of bills that would benefit patients and the nursing profession, attended a committee hearing, and were introduced and honored on the floor of the House of Delegates by Delegate Katrina Callsen.

Join NAI in their advocacy by participating in an upcoming NAI training session on **February 24** or **May 27!** Any professional nurse at UVA Health is eligible to participate in NAI. Find [more information](#) online, or [sign up to receive information](#) on a training session. Contact [Leanne Fox](#) for more information.

### RN Peer Review Resources for FY26 Annual Performance Appraisal

Engaging in peer review is a professional responsibility and expectation for professional nurses as guided by our national standards and code of ethics. It is also a core component of our care delivery model Relationship-Based Care, driving a culture of respect and safety. As part of our Annual Performance Appraisal process, one peer review, completed in a buddy system, is required for each RN.

Explore the variety of information, resources, and skill-building opportunities available on the [Nursing Peer Review website](#) to support you and your team.

## Blast Question

What is the February 2026 Patient Safety Focus? (Hint: Your local professional governance chair can help)!

Enter your answer [here](#)

# Recognition

## Congratulations!

- **Dana Lofquist**, RN Clinician 2, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, obtained her PMNC certification.

**Clara Winfield**, MSN, RN, CAPA, CNL  
Clinician 4 | Outpatient Sgy. Ctr. (OPSC)  
2026 NPGO President

**Megan Mundy**, BSN, RN, CCRN  
Inpatient Charge Nurse | Medical ICU  
2026 NPGO President-elect

*Past Thursday Blast editions are available [here](#).*