

# NPGO BLAST

*April 9, 2026*

## UVA Nursing Practice Updates

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

### Headlines:

Patient Safety Moment: Blood/Fluid Warmer Question Now in BPAM Window!

PRACTICE CHANGE: Hazardous Medication Administration

Safety Tips When Using Simplist MicroVault Syringe

Medication Update: Labetalol Vial Size Change

Levothyroxine Injection (100 mcg vial) - Vial May Appear Empty, But Contains Medication!

Updated Intravenous Immunoglobulin (IVIG) Administration Instructions

Adult Insulin Infusion Pump - Limit Changes

Parenteral Nutrition Alaris Pump - Entry Change

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

### Announcing 2026 National Nurses Week Events and Activities

Explore the 2026 National Nurses Week celebrations happening here at the University Medical Center May 6-12. Go to [uvanursesweek.com](http://uvanursesweek.com) to learn about the special events and various opportunities for participation and fun!

#### 2026 Nurses Week [Flyer](#) and [Calendar](#)

**EBP Symposium** | Wednesday, May 6, 0800-1200 and 1300-1700 at the Wool Factory.

**NEW! Nurses Walk for Wellness** | Participate in a group walk event, try out a walking route on your break, or submit your daily steps or movement as part of the Wellness Challenge. Learn more about this new activity [here](#).

**Food Truck Friday** | Friday, May 8, 1030-1430 across from the Main Hospital Loading Dock. A variety of foods will be available for purchase. [Click here](#) to learn more and see the menus.

**Nurses Week Drop-In Celebration** | Saturday, May 10, 0600-0900 in the Dining Conference Rooms. Celebrate all the accomplishments you have achieved over the past year. Refreshments, photo booth, and more!

**NEW! Pop-Up Art Activity** | Monday, May 11, 1500-1630 in the Dining Conference Rooms. Relax and try your hand at watercolor painting.

**Annual Nursing Excellence Awards Ceremony | Tuesday, May 12**, doors open at 1400 at the Wool Factory. [Click here](#) to see the list of nominees. Make plans to watch this celebration event via the [livestream](#) – new for this year!

**NEW! Professional Headshots for RNs** | Get your headshot taken by a professional photographer! [Click here](#) for details.

**Blessing of the Hands** | Contact your department's Chaplain or email [chaplaincy@uvahealth.org](mailto:chaplaincy@uvahealth.org) to schedule for your team throughout Nurses Month.

**Late Nights at Higher Grounds** | Purchase your late-night caffeine fix until 2am throughout Nurses Week.

Nurses Week Giveaways, Nightingale Notable Superlatives, Nurse Legacy Hall of Fame, Virtual Scavenger Hunt, Pet Therapy Rounding, Rounding on and off grounds throughout Nurses Month, team resources, and more! Check out [uvanursesweek.com](http://uvanursesweek.com).

### Join Us Next Week! NPGO Night Shift Committee Meeting

Help spread the word and be part of our upcoming NPGO Night Shift Committee Meeting! The committee meets on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday of every month from 0200-0300 in the Medical Center Board Room, with a virtual option available for those who prefer to join remotely.

**This Month's Meeting:** Join us on Friday, April 17, from 0200-0300 (Thursday night shift). Snacks will be provided!

**Stay Connected:** Click [here](#) to sign up and receive updates about monthly night shift meetings and other happenings.

**Recognizing Our Night Shift Team:** We're excited to celebrate your recent professional accomplishments at this month's meeting! Please take a moment to complete the [survey](#) and share updates such as new certifications, promotions, degrees, and more.

### Kahuna Competency Management System

Our competency documentation is changing in 2026 as we move to the Kahuna Competency Management System. Keep an eye out here for information so you can stay informed and prepared.

- **Resources:**
  - [Kahuna Welcome](#) video (7.5 minutes)
  - [Kahuna Flyer](#) for posting
- **What will Kahuna do for us?** It means that we are moving from a paper-based competency documentation to a digitized system for new hires and annual competencies.
  - Go-live is targeted for July 2026
  - Training will occur in May 2026 for Super Users and June & July 2026 for all other team members
- **Who will this impact?** The initial phase will impact inpatient, outpatient, perioperative, and procedural areas for RN, LPN, Medical Assistant (MA), Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA), Patient Care Technician (PCT), Emergency Department (ED) Technician, Dialysis Technician, and Orthopedic Technician roles.

### Nominations Open for the Virginia Nurses Foundation 40 Under 40 Awards

The Virginia Nurses Foundation will honor rising nursing leaders at the annual VNF Gala in Fall 2026. Nominate an outstanding nurse who demonstrates achievements in professional practice, leadership, and impact. Award criteria, additional information, and a link to submit nominations can be found [here](#). The deadline to submit a nomination is **May 18, 2026**.

### Nurses' Voices Needed | Research Study Participation Opportunity

Hospital-based registered nurses 18 years of age or older are invited to participate in a research study examining nurses' job attribute preferences. The online survey takes approximately 15–20 minutes and

includes a \$20 electronic gift card upon completion. An optional 30-minute Zoom interview includes a \$25 electronic gift card.

**Survey flyer** | To participate, please [click here](#)

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**New 2026 Calendar of Events for Nurses**

The Nursing Center for Excellence sponsors a wide variety of events throughout the year for personal and professional development, governance and research activities, and celebrating all the things that nurses accomplish! Check out upcoming opportunities anytime on our website [here](#).

**2026 Nursing Assistant Awards Nomination Cycle is Open!**

It's time to recognize all the wonderful things your nursing assistant colleagues have done over the past year! Review the NPGO Nursing Assistant Awards criteria and eligibility requirements and consider nominating one or more team members for one of the award categories below:

- Patient Care Technician of the Year
- Certified Nursing Assistant of the Year
- Certified Medical Assistant of the Year
- Specialty Technician of the Year

Nominations must be at least 300 words and include specific examples! There must be at least one example per criterion to be considered. Click [HERE](#) to submit a nomination. Nominations **close Thursday, May 7 at 2359** - don't miss this opportunity! If you have any questions about eligibility or need assistance, email [npgo@uvahealth.org](mailto:npgo@uvahealth.org).

## Blast Answer

**Question:** Can you name one event that is new to our Nurses Week celebration this year? (*Hint: there is more than one!*)

**Answer:** "Nurses Walk for Wellness" and "Professional Headshots for RNs"-would both have been accepted.

Congratulations to Christin Child (Clinician 4, PACU) this month's Blast Question winner!

Follow the link ([Nurses Week main page!](#)) to see the latest information on events for the week! Information is currently being updated frequently so please check back often!

## Recognition

**Congratulations!**

Congratulations to **Nancy Fauber, MSN, RN**, who earned the **Virginia Cardiac Services Quality Initiative (VCSQI) Collaborator of the Year award** for 2025, recognizing an individual who exemplifies the spirit of collaboration in advancing the VCSQI/VHAC mission to improve cardiac care and patient outcomes. Her nominators note that she fosters collaboration across multidisciplinary teams to identify barriers and implement effective solutions. Additionally, she champions a culture of continuous improvement while recognizing and elevating excellence in patient care.

**Congratulations Newly Certified RNs!**

- **Amanda Fitzgerald, RN** Care Coordinator, Emily Couric Clinical Cancer Cntr. Infusion Cntr, obtained her AMB-BC certification.

## Congratulations to the recent DAISY and BEE Award Recipients!

### February DAISY Award Recipients

- **Emily McKee**, RN Clinician 2, 3 Central
- **Brittany Scott**, RN Clinician 2, Augusta Oncology Clinic

### February BEE Award Recipients

- **Julia Dawson**, Child Life Specialist, Children's Hospital Ops
- **Mary Henderson**, Administrative Assistant, 6 Central

### March 2026 DAISY Award Recipients

- **Mousumi Franks**, RN Clinician 3, 5 Central
- **Chelsey McLaughlin**, RN Clinician 2, Surgical Trauma ICU

### March 2026 BEE Award Recipients

- **Liz Sites**, Patient Care Technician, Nerancy Neuro ICU
- **Megan Smith**, Sterile Processing Coordinator, Sterile Processing

**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](#).