

Bethany Smith, FULD Fellow Cohort II



The Therapeutic Intervention Scoring System-28 (TISS-28) is an acuity scoring tool used in the Neuroscience Critical Care Unit (NCCU) at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Under the mentorship of Betsy Zink, a Clinical Nurse Specialist in the NCCU, I created a system for inputting scores into a spreadsheet, and entered and analyzed data from 2012. The purposes of this project are to determine whether a certain TISS-28 score upon transfer predicts return to the NCCU within 72 hours; to determine whether a linear relationship exists between TISS-28 scores and length of stay; and, to analyze TISS-28 scores by patient diagnosis.

I graduated from University of California San Diego in 2005 with a BS in Psychology. I then served as Peace Corps Volunteer for two years in Azerbaijan, teaching English and working with local school teachers in a rural community. This experience got me interested in public health as I was exposed to issues in sanitation and reproductive health. I later worked as a children's ski instructor in Breckenridge, CO, and then as a childcare provider in San Francisco, CA. I am currently a BSN candidate for December 2013.

A personal experience got me interested in patient safety and quality improvement. My grandmother had a stroke and fell at home, and was subsequently hospitalized. During her recovery, her basic needs often went unattended due to poor organization and communication among staff members. I have since learned about the magnitude of harm caused by patient falls and other errors in hospitals. While each member of the healthcare team must be held personally accountable for patient safety, systems must also be optimized to minimize potential for human error.

My goal is to contribute to improved patient safety and quality on a pediatric inpatient unit by joining committees and participating in projects to make systems safer, to reduce errors, and to focus on delivering evidenced-based care. Within five years I would like to become a nurse educator, and within ten years my goal is to move into an administrative role and become a nurse manager. I plan to utilize my professional nursing experience with my leadership skills to make system-wide changes to optimize patient outcomes.