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Physicians Pay Tribute to Our Nurses

During National Nurses Week, physicians reflect on the incredible value nurses bring to Children's.

Ann Fleming Beach, M.D., is a physician at Scottish Rite and the daughter of a nurse. She wrote an article for the April issue of the [American Journal of Nursing](#) in tribute to her mother's career. In the article, Dr. Beach explains how when she left for medical school, her mother shared some incredibly valuable advice about working with nurses. She described how doctors can learn a great deal about their patients from nurses.

As an attending, Dr. Beach engages with new interns and residents on a regular basis and shares her mother's words of wisdom. She reminds them that their rounds are not complete until they've consulted with their patients' nurses. A nurse can share very important details that a physician wouldn't necessarily pick up on during rounds.

After 10 years as an office pediatrician, four as a hospital administrator, and 12 as a pediatric hospitalist, Dr. Beach still takes her mother's advice to heart.

"We are incredibly spoiled here at Children's, because our nurses are so good. They take initiative. They are detail-oriented. They will do anything for the kids, because they care so much," she says. "I know a nurse who came in on her day off with a wardrobe of new clothes and did the hair of a little child who was being taken into DFACS custody because of abuse. I know nurses who take great care of dying patients and then go cry when they think nobody can see. I know nurses who stay late without complaining."

According to Margaux Charbonnet, M.D., nurses are physicians' eyes, ears and hands at the bedside.

"They spend a significant amount of time with patients, watching their illnesses progress or improve. They pick up on clinical details that otherwise might go unnoticed. Nurses are the first ones there when a patient needs anything be it a medicine, dressing change, chest compression or even just a hug. Without them the entire hospital team wouldn't work," Dr. Charbonnet says. "Nurses are invaluable resources at the bedside that ultimately makes us better doctors."

Anesthesiologist Carolyn Bannister, M.D., agrees.

"There is no way to adequately thank our nurses for all they do for patients. A simple thank you doesn't properly express our appreciation," Dr. Bannister says. "We are lucky and blessed to have the dedicated, committed nurses that we work with at Children's. They are priceless."

There are so many incredible nurses at Children's. They do amazing things every day, and they make a tremendous difference in the lives of our patients. During National Nurses Week, take a moment to send a note of thanks through [Celebrations](#) to a nurse who is making a difference.

"Nurses are the driving force behind the incredible care we deliver to patients," says Chief Nurse Executive Joyce Ramsey Coleman. "In our fast-paced environment, it's important to take a moment to express our sincere gratitude for everything our nurses do, day after day, to help our patients and make Children's a better place."

Note: You can read more about Dr. Beach and her recent publications in the latest [Kudos](#) article.



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