New Graduate Nurse Residency Program

The Medical University of South Carolina is pleased to offer the UHC/AACN Nurse Residency Program: a program designed to ease the transition to practice for the new graduate nurse in their first professional role.

Criteria for Enrollment
- Graduation from an accredited program within the previous 6 months
- RN licensure

Core Curriculum
- Critical thinking
- Patient Outcomes
- Leadership
- Professional development

Participation
All new graduate nurses participate in 4 hour educational sessions each month for one year post hire. The curriculum is based upon Joint Commission Patient Safety Goals, quality initiatives and organizational goals. Time is provided during each session for feedback, reflection and sharing of personal and organizational wins. Organizational and clinical leaders present information significant for the new graduates’ successful transition into practice.

Nurses who have completed residency programs report a significant increase in their ability to organize, prioritize and deliver safe care. They also report a significant increase in communication and leadership ability. At the same time, these nurses have reported decreased self-reported stress levels (UHC, 2006).

There is a critical need for nurses who are skilled in evidence-based practice and can demonstrate comfort in using nursing outcomes data to improve patient safety and care. Newly graduated nurses have greater responsibility for patient care at an earlier stage in their careers than in the past. The Nurse Residency programs offers a focus upon leadership, research and the continuum of care that will support the new graduate nurses’ transition from an academic role into the practice role.