

CHIKA ONYIA, MSN, RN

Accountable Care Manager

NYC Health + Hospitals/ Gotham Health East New York



Losing her parents at an early age sparked Chika Onyia's drive to become a nurse. She was inspired by "the desire to offer nursing education and companionate care to my patients and to bridge the gap to patient's health illiteracy which led to the death of my mother at my young age of 14 and the death of my father at age 29," she explains. "After acquiring my Bachelor of Arts degree, I was not satisfied until I enrolled in a Certified Nursing Aide program in 2006 and never stopped until I got my Bachelor of Science in Nursing in 2013 and a degree in Master of Science in Nursing in August, 2020."

In her 13 years with New York City Health + Hospitals, Onyia has treated many of the city's most vulnerable patients. "The public health system offers hope of care and treatment to all," she notes. "New York City residents have hope of treatment and respect regardless of their race, gender, socio-economic status inability to pay."

"Working in an ambulatory care setting as a chronic disease RN, I have come across so many patients with elevated A1Cs and blood pressure, some of whom are scared and worried that their life will never be the same because of their diagnosis," she continues. "I feel deeply proud of myself as a nurse at NYC Health + Hospitals when these same patients come back to tell me that they feel confident in managing their condition because of my support."

Onyia is in turn supported by her family and friends. "I am motivated by so many reasons to be a nurse every day, including my beloved husband and kids, siblings, coworkers and friends; and the patients that look forward to me using my knowledge and skill to assist them in their health management journey," she says, adding that she is dedicated to continuous improvement. "I believe that a situation will never change itself; rather a situation can be changed by people like myself. I always say to myself, if I do not do it, it might never get done. If an action is wrong, it should not be followed. No matter how long it might take to get negative action to change, it is better than never changing it."

Nurses are the embodiment of many different values, all of which Onyia demonstrates as a nurse. "The word integrity means that one must be honest and at the same time have strong moral principles," she remarks. "My belief has always been to treat others the way you wish to be treated."

I show compassion to people around me because I would want to be treated as such when I am in need. Because my goal is to produce excellent outcomes in everything I do, I will always account for my work. Above all, respect is highly important to me in getting my work done, I owe respect to everyone."