

JENECIA VALLE, RN, BSN, CCRN

Supervisor of Nurses, Nurse Educator

NYC Health + Hospitals/ Lincoln Hospital



A traumatic event at just eight years old spurred Jenecia Valle to become a nurse. "Little did I know that the day my mother was horribly injured would be such a life-changing experience for me," she recollects. "This traumatic accident solidified my destiny to become a nurse."

Valle recalls hearing "a chilling call for help" and finding that her mother had fallen through glass, lacerating her leg from knee to thigh. The wound was bleeding profusely as her father rushed the family to Lincoln Hospital. "My father drove erratically as I held my mother's head on my lap and my two young brothers put pressure on her wound," she recalls. "All I could think of was losing my mother and that I would never see her alive again."

Waiting outside the ER, Valle said, "minutes felt like hours, hours like days as I sat in the waiting room crying, and praying for a miracle. I was inconsolable, and then hospital staff came to me and said, 'We are taking care of your Mom, she is going to be okay.' I looked up to the staff at Lincoln Hospital, because in my eyes they were miracle workers, angels sent from Heaven. They were my heroes and I wanted to be like them."

During her mother's recovery, Valle helped her walk and took care of her. "My mom held my hand and said to me, 'You'll make a great nurse one day.' I felt like a superhero myself because I helped her heal. From that very moment, I knew that I too wanted to make a similar impact in the lives of others. I made an oath to give to others what was so graciously given to my family and me when my mother's life was saved by Lincoln Hospital; and I am glad they chose me to be part of their wonderful, dynamic, diverse team."

In her nine years at Lincoln, Valle has tried to "give back" in various ways. "One of my proudest accomplishments is becoming a Nurse Educator in 2019," she asserts. "In this role, I am able to share my knowledge with the nurses to provide the best patient outcomes using evidence-based practices.

A memorable moment was when I trained more than 150 nurses to assist us during our COVID-19 crisis; I trained nurses from all over the world, including the U.S. Army and Air Force team. The military awarded me with a certificate of appreciation and one of the Air Force team member David Pasko, honored me with his patch that he had from a mission as his way to thank me for my bravery and for guiding them through the process. Little did they know that the honor was mine and I thanked them for their bravery and courage to help us in our time of need.

"Another memorable moment was comforting and holding the hands of sick and dying patients especially during the COVID -19 outbreak," she continues. "Some patients did not have family to call and some were alone during this time. I tried my best to ensure they did not feel alone and that they had someone there to care for them.

"A compassionate nurse is one that is empathetic to the patient's pain and suffering and that is important because you will advocate by ensuring they are comforted holistically," Valle adds. "The care will be guided towards the patient and not just the diagnosis. As an educator and an ER/ Trauma Nurse, I strive to provide the exceptional care that exceeds patient and family expectations. I teach the staff and show different ways on how to strive for excellence and to promote a nurturing environment not only for the patients but also for each other."