

OLUWABUNMI AKINSEYE, MSN, RN

Staff Nurse, Pediatric ICU

NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem Hospital Center



Oluwabunmi Akinseye is quick to lend a hand whenever and wherever she is needed most...a quality that was brought to the forefront earlier this year as NYC Health + Hospitals confronted the coronavirus pandemic. "This past COVID-19 surge remains my most memorable life experience till date," she points out. "I am glad to have been of help during this period. My unit had significantly less patients during the COVID-19 season and I knew in order to live in accordance with the person I see myself becoming, I had to be where I could be useful during this period. Thus I volunteered to work on surge units as a resource nurse in onboarding our emergency staff pool."

Akinseye volunteered to work as a resource nurse on adult COVID-19 units at NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem Hospital Center to guide and assist agency nurses, facilitating their smooth adjustment to hospital standards, policies, procedures and documentation. She worked with the charge RN to delegate nurses' assignments and coordinate bed placement for COVID-19-positive patients and patients under investigation; and also assisted nurses and technicians with patient care, blood glucose checks, IV placement, securing needed unit supplies and addressing staff concerns. Akinseye says she is inspired by, "being able to help people in one of life's most vulnerable moments, and assist patients in recovering to their best possible health; the ability to help when it's needed the most.

"In all honesty, I'm happy when I come to work," she adds. "The ability to effect change around me is one of life's most fulfilling and important goals. There is no better feeling than to hear my patients calling out my name on the streets of Harlem."

In her seven years working for NYC Health + Hospitals/Harlem, Akinseye says she feels like she is making an impact. "I feel confident and comfortable speaking up about changes that can be made, and also feel empowered to take action when I know it will result in improvement and change. There is a lot of diversity; this equipped me with the ability to work with people from all walks of life while being considerate of our differences."

Akinseye says she values "compassion and excellence coupled together, which makes for life changing experiences. Treating people with compassion means I am listening to you, here for you, willing to tough out this situation with you. This, coupled with excellent quality care, is what nurses are made of."