Avera McKennan
Nursing Excellence Conference

Avera McKennan - Plaza 3 Auditorium
Friday, October 23, 2026

Start	End	Content Title/Description	Presenter/Author
0730	0815	Registration	Conference Planning Committee
0815	0830	Opening Remarks	Tamera J. Larsen-Engelkes MSN, RN, NE-BC | Chief Nursing Officer Avera McKennan Hospital & University Health Center
0830	0915	Ethics at the Bedside: Recognizing Ethical Issues and Partnering with the Ethics Team	Scott N. Helstad, PhD
0915	0945	Ethics: Panel Discussion	Scott Helstad PhD Jill Casanova MBA, BSN,RN, CCRN, NE-BC Kyle Hodge RN, CRRN Stacy Reitmeier MSW
0945	1015	Investigating Hospital Transfer Center Wait Times: A Comparison to the Association between ED Boarding and Mortality	Troy Grovenburg, PhD, MS, MBA Alicia Vermeulen MSN, RN, NE-BC Candice Friestad DNP, MBA, RN, NEA-BC, RN-BC
1015	1030	Break	
1030	1100	Early Mobilization Following Tenecteplase Administration: Advancing Stroke Recovery Through Evidence-Based Nursing Practice	McCall Vadnais RN, BSN, ENLS Lucinda Nelson RN, MSN, SCRN, CRRN Carter Yungwirth, B.S.
1100	1130	Surgical Prophylaxis and Beta-Lactam Allergy: Increasing Cefazolin Use in Surgical Patients	Sarah Solma RN, BSN, AMB-BC Brandon Bloomberg PharmD
1130	1200	Avera McKennan Safety Huddles	Samantha O'Neal BSN, RN
1200	1245	Lunch	
1245	1315	More than Just Pressure: Rethinking Skin Breakdown	Brittni Cowan MSN, RN, PCCN Cassie Schaffner BSN, RN Caitlin Kramer BSN, RN, CWON Jalanni Poppenga BSN, RN, CWON
1315	1345	Implementation of an Evidence-Based Electronic Stroke Checklist to Improve Storke Outcomes	Cierra Cuka BSN, RN Kennedy Knippling BSN, RN
1345	1400	An Information Booklet and its Impact on ICU Nurses and Patient Family Members	Kaitlin Ruden RN Ben Brekke RN Blake Rife RN Jade Bukowski RN
1400	1415	The Impact of a Height Adjusted Step stool to Improve the Quality of CPR in the ICU	Katie Vollink RN
1415	1430	Before Breakdown- BIPAP	Dalten Bremer RN Rebecca Bakker RN Angie Barrientos Lopez RN Megan Cap RN Melissa Postma RN Hannah Shultz RN Elizabeth Smith RN
1430	1445	Closing Remarks	Jill Rye DNP, RN, CRRN, CNL, FARN

Avera McKennan Nursing Excellence Conference

10/23/2026 at 08:00 AM to 2:30

Live Activity

Purpose:

This conference provides a forum for nurses, nurse leaders, and healthcare professionals to share research findings, evidence-based practice innovations, and quality improvement outcomes that address current challenges in healthcare. Attendees will examine successful interventions, emerging evidence, and interdisciplinary approaches that contribute to improved patient safety, quality of care, operational effectiveness, and ethical clinical practice. Participants will leave with practical knowledge and strategies that can be implemented to advance excellence within their organizations.

Objectives:

1 Analyze the impact of a height-adjusted step stool intervention on nurse satisfaction with the quality of cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) in the intensive care unit (ICU).
2 Evaluate the effect of an educational booklet on nurse and family satisfaction in the intensive care unit.
3 Analyze the implementation of a foam dressing intervention to reduce pressure injuries associated with noninvasive ventilation devices in hospitalized adult patients.
4 Evaluate the findings of a retrospective observational study validating a clinical tool designed to differentiate acute skin failure from hospital-acquired pressure injuries in hospitalized adults.
5 Analyze the implementation and outcomes of an interprofessional quality improvement initiative to improve adherence to evidence-based surgical antimicrobial prophylaxis guidelines.
6 Describe the implementation and outcomes of a nurse-led early mobilization program for patients with acute stroke who have received thrombolytic therapy.
7 Discuss the impact of daily interprofessional safety huddles on patient safety and quality outcomes in an acute care hospital.
8 Evaluate the findings of a retrospective study examining the relationship between emergency department and transfer center wait times, hospital length of stay, and mortality rates in a rural health system.
9 Define ethical issues in clinical practice.
10 Apply ethical analysis to a clinical case study.
11 Describe the implementation of a standardized electronic checklist to improve stroke outcomes.

Target Audience:

Nurse - RN, Nurse - Nurse Practitioner, Nurse -LPN/LVN

For successful completion:

- Attend education
- Complete evaluation

Accreditation & Credit Designation:

Accreditation

JOINTLY ACCREDITED PROVIDER™
INTERPROFESSIONAL CONTINUING EDUCATION

In support of improving patient care, Avera is jointly accredited by the Accreditation Council for Continuing Medical Education (ACCME), the Accreditation Council for Pharmacy Education (ACPE), and the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), to provide continuing education for the healthcare team.

Continuing Education Credit Designation(s)

Nurse CE: Avera designates this activity for a maximum of 5.00 ANCC contact hour(s). Nurses should claim only the credit commensurate with the extent of their participation in the activity.

REMINDER Attendance can be texted up to 24 hours after the activity

Avera

Disclosure Policy:

Due to the regulations required for CE credits, all conflicts of interest that persons in a position to control or influence the education must be fully disclosed to participants. In observance of this requirement, we are providing the following disclosure information: all relevant financial relationships disclosed below have been mitigated.

Name of individual	Individual's role in activity	Nature of Relationship(s) / Name of Ineligible Company(s)
Rebecca Bakker, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Angie Barrientos, BSN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Brandon5752 Bloomgren, PharmD	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Jill Casanova, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Carla Borchardt, DNP, Nurse	Content Expert - Committee Member	Nothing to disclose
Ben Brekke, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Dalten Bremer, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Jade Bukowski, AD, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Megan Cap, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Brittni Cowan, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Ciera Cuka, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
CANDICE FRIESTAD, DNP	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Troy Grovenburg, Ph D, Operations Manager	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Scott Helstad, Ph D	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
KYLE HODGE, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Jamie Ingalls, BSN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Kennedy Knippling, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
CAITLIN Kramer, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Lucinda Nelson, MSN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Samantha O'neal, BSN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Jalanni Poppenga, RN, CWON	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Melissa Postma, BSN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Stacy Reitmeier, MSW	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Blake Rife, Student, Student	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Kaitlin Ruden, RN, TNCC, NREMT	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Jill Rye, RN, Nurse	Lead Planner	Nothing to disclose
Cassie Schaffner, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Lacey Seefeldt, BS, Consultant	Committee Planning Member	Nothing to disclose
Hannah Shultz, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose

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Elizabeth Smith, RN	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Sarah Solma, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
McCall Vadnais, BSN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
ALICIA VERMEULEN, MSN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Katie Vollink, RN, Nurse	Faculty	Nothing to disclose
Lynn White, APRN, Researcher	Committee Planning Member	Nothing to disclose
Carter Yungwirth, BS	Faculty	Nothing to disclose