



Bright spots for the new year

COVID-19 care innovations worth keeping

WE'VE LIVED THROUGH three waves of COVID-19 and learned from each one. New ways to care grew out of necessity, many of which I hope become permanent. Just look at the number of bright spots and innovative care activities that have developed over the past 18 months. They give us hope for a positive and productive 2022 for a nursing profession continuing to thrive. Relationships matter when caring for patients, supporting staff, and building teams.

- Virtual admissions nurses can perform assessments and complete the intake process for procedures while the patient is at home.
- Behavioral health urgent care consults improve appropriateness of care and keep patients out of the emergency department.
- Re-imagined postdischarge care that uses telehealth when appropriate reduces costs and improves the care experience.
- Horizons Hangouts help address burnout issues. They include sessions where teams can watch webinars together, try new technology, or learn about personal wellness solutions.
- Project Wingman (projectwingman.co.uk), founded in 2020 in response to the pandemic, provides dedicated lounges in U.K. hospitals where staff are cared for by volunteer airline crew members.
- ATTIC (Activities for Transforming Teams & Igniting Change) helps teams enhance teamwork, develop communication skills, and spark creative thinking and innovation (bcpsqc.ca/resources/attic).

To find other bright spots with ideas you might use to improve your practice environment, read these articles in this month's issue of *American Nurse Journal*:

- "Beyond the pandemic: Retaining nurses to mitigate shortages"
- "Artificial intelligence in nursing"
- "Promoting patient portal engagement."

As you ring in the new year, make a resolution to find bright spots and innovations that can support you, other caregivers, and patients. As we turn the page on a challenging 2021, I wish you a healthy and happier 2022.

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These examples of bright spots have helped increase the tempo of care through greater patient interaction, increased connections via high-touch interventions, and improved teamwork using adaptation within healthcare teams.

- Remote patient monitoring is expected to double by 2025 as more patient visits are conducted virtually.
- The hospital at home concept enables some patients who require acute care to receive it in their homes rather than in a hospital.
- On-demand virtual visits better meet the time constraints of patients and increase caregiver interaction.