The framework by which nurses identify what is important in their work is outlined in the professional practice model. The redesign of Mission Health’s Nursing Professional Practice Model over more than six months in 2016 and 2017 was the cumulative work of hundreds of clinical nurses and clinical leaders who answered the question, “What is the professional nurse?” Four words, which spell the acronym CARE, were chosen during a system-wide nursing retreat on January 23, 2017, to represent our practice model.

The schematic for this model pictures a dogwood flower surrounded by a cross. This image has been used to represent Mission Health nurses for over a decade. The “Nursing is Our Mission” logo is embedded on each of the four dogwood petals. The CARE words (Compassion, Advocacy, Respect and Excellence) are set along the four pillars of the cross. The model represents our nurses’ expectations in caring for their patients, families and each other, as well as their collaboration with additional professional disciplines.

C-Compassion

According to the MERIT* value of Mercy, we employ the virtues of caring and compassion to enter into the human experiences as a way of establishing a meaningful connection.

A-Advocacy

We promote and advocate for the protection of human rights of health and safety by safeguarding people’s autonomy, acting on behalf of truth and championing social justice in the provision of healthcare.

R- Respect

We value the innate dignity of all persons, respect their uniqueness and diversity and enable the development of each one’s full potential.

E- Excellence

We maintain the standard of excellence by exceeding expectations and continuously improving our clinical knowledge, relationships with each other, and the practice environment.
Mission Health Nursing Philosophy Statements

We believe as professional nurses that:

- Caring is the essence of nursing.
- We keep the patient and family at the center of our care by owning our practice.
- We celebrate and are accountable for our individual practice and professional image.
- We will honor and respect the diverse needs of others, whether their needs are physical, psychosocial, or spiritual.
- We will lead the integration of evidence-based practice to achieve exceptional patient outcomes.
- The care we deliver will be safe, individualized, and holistic, while encompassing Mission Health’s MERIT* values of Mercy, Excellence, Respect, Integrity, and Trust/Teamwork.
- This philosophy will promote an environment of professionalism in order to retain the nurses of yesterday and recruit the nurses of tomorrow.

Mission Health Professional Nurse

A Mission Health Professional Nurse is a registered nurse and practices according to the Mission Health Guiding Principles by:

- Demonstrating a positive, caring, empathetic, and compassionate attitude toward patients and their families, team members, and the community.
- Exhibiting a strong knowledge base while furthering their own professional development.
- Embracing change and progress.
- Collaborating with our team members and family partners in care.
- Advocating for patient and family centered care.
- Exemplifying integrity, accountability, and ethical behavior.
- Continually examining and transforming our current practice as guided by best available evidence.
- Maintaining a professional image.
- Owning nursing practice and applying the nursing process when developing nursing plans of care for each patient.