

# Erin T. OConnell, MSN-RN, MBA, CNL, CNLCP®, MSCC, CCM®

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## Nurse Life Care Planner ~ Medicare Set-Aside Consultant

### Qualifications Summary

*Certified Life Care Planner*, proficient in medical cost projecting

Experienced *Legal Nurse Consultant/Testifying Expert*, specializing in Med/Surg, Telemetry, ICU, and PACU

Reliable *leader*, spearheaded monitoring tools, developed policies and procedures, and trained nursing staff and students on nursing standards of care

### Licensures & Certifications

- *PA Registered Nurse* (#RN563666)
- *WA Registered Nurse* (#RN60671658)
- *OR Registered Nurse* (#201603943RN)
- *Certified Nurse Life Care Planner*, CNLCP
- *Medicare Set Aside*, MSCC

### Competencies

- Creating healthcare roadmaps, analyzing medical records, developing case reports
- Testifying as an expert witness
- Teaching, supervising, auditing, selected for leadership roles
- Proficient public speaker

### Education

MSCC	<b>Medicare Set Aside</b>	Dec. 2017	FIG Services Hendersonville, NC
CNLCP	<b>Nurse Life Care Planner</b>	Dec. 2015	FIG Services Hendersonville, NC
CNL	<b>Clinical Nurse Leadership Certification</b> Honors: Sigma Theta Tau	April 2015	Spring Hill College Mobile, AL
MBA	<b>Master of Business Administration</b>	June 2012	Waynesburg University Waynesburg, PA
MSN	<b>Master of Science in Nursing</b> Concentration: Education and Leadership Honors: Sigma Theta Tau	Feb. 2011	Waynesburg University Waynesburg, PA
BSN	<b>Bachelor of Science in Nursing</b>	Dec. 2006	University of Pittsburgh Pittsburgh, PA
ADN	<b>Associates Degree in Nursing</b>	May 2005	CCAC Pittsburgh, PA

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## Professional Experience

### Consulting

#### President/Certified Nurse Life Care Planner/Legal Nurse Consultant/MSCC

Aug. 2012 – Present

*OConnell and Associates*

*Seattle, WA*

◇ Self-established business providing life care planning, legal nurse consulting and testifying expert services to attorneys ◇ Assist patients who have suffered catastrophic injuries and illnesses by using the nursing process for their ongoing medical care ◇ Adhere to the scope of nursing standards of care ◇ Evaluate complex medical records to identify issues/possible breaches in nursing standards of care ◇ Review, summarize, and analyze medical records for attorney clients ◇ Provide expert opinions, depositions, and testimonies ◇ Attend IMEs/DMEs ◇ Educate attorneys and clients regarding relevant medical issues ◇ Identify and define future medical needs and associated costs

Specializing in:

##### Life Care Planner

- Catastrophic Injuries
- Brain Injury
- Spinal Cord Injury
- Amputations
- Burns
- Pediatrics/Cerebral Palsy
- Chronic Pain
- Case Management

##### Legal Nurse Consultant

- Testifying Expert
- Med/Surg
- ICU
- Post Anesthesia Care Unit
- Telemetry

##### Medicare Set-Aside Certified Consultant

##### Medical Cost Projections

### Clinical/Management

#### Medicare Set-Aside

July 2013-Present

*Blackburn Group*

*Pittsford, NY*

◇ Develop Medicare Set-Aside (MSA) Allocations to determine future medical and pharmacological needs ◇ Provide clients with a tool to reach an agreement with the injured party and Medicare ◇ Provide detailed cost projections in straight forward tables for quick reference of medical and pharmacological needs

#### Clinical Nurse Leader (CNL)

Jan. 2016-Jan. 2021

*Puget Sound VA Healthcare System*

*Seattle, WA*

◇ Develop and monitor all competencies for RN's, LPN's, and nursing assistants in the long-term care/hospice/short-term long-term rehabilitation setting ◇ Maintain overall quality improvement initiatives (ex. decrease urinary tract infections, pressure ulcers, and hospital readmissions) ◇ Conduct chart audits to maintain long-term care/hospice/short-term long-term rehabilitation ◇ Analyze hospital nursing policies to maintain up-to-date evidence-based practice

#### Case Manager (CM)

July 2016- July 2018

*Willamette Nurse Consultant*

*Portland, OR*

◇ Attend provider visitations with the client ◇ Assessment of current level of care for client ◇ Expedite services to clients ensuring timely care recommended by provider's ◇ Efficient and timely return to work for the client

**PACU/Same Day/GI Recovery Nurse**

**Sept. 2013 – Jan. 2016**

**Medical/Surgical Staff Nurse**

**Sept. 2012 – Sept. 2013**

*VA Pittsburgh Healthcare System*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

◇ Coordinated patients for procedures, including assisting the anesthesiologist with the administration of pre-surgical nerve blocks ◇ Coordinated new-hire orientation process, including education and competencies ◇ Developed policies and procedures ◇ Develop appropriate discharge planning for all patients discharged

Highlights

- Spearheaded the Mepilex Program (*keeping patients free of pressure ulcers during surgery*)
- Platinum winner of the 2014 FINE Award (<http://www.pittsburgh.va.gov/pressreleases/2014/Fine-Foundation-Award.asp>)
- Selected for the Frontline Leadership Program (*see Honors & Awards and Presentations section*)
- Member of the Nursing Standards of Care Committee (*continually researching nursing standards of care, reviewing the VA's policies, and updating as needed then enforcing the updates in the VA*)
- Created Nadir pamphlet (*an educational pamphlet given to patients receiving chemotherapy and radiation therapy*)
- Participated in VAPHS Root Cause Analysis (RCA) for quality improvement

**Clinical Supervisor Cardiology/Heart Failure Telemetry Unit**

**Feb. 2012 – Sept. 2012**

*Allegheny General Hospital*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

◇ Managed 37-bed Cardiology/Heart Failure Telemetry Unit ◇ Developed policies and procedures that increased nursing assistant patient-care responsibility ◇ Collaborated with case managers to improve and streamline patient discharge process reducing patient's length of stay ◇ Created patient discharge orders template utilized by department

**Float Team Nurse**

**Dec. 2007 – Feb. 2012**

**Cardiothoracic ICU Nurse**

**June 2005 – Dec. 2007**

*University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

◇ Rotated every 3-6 months between multiple, in-need ICUs, PACUs, Med/Surg, and Telemetry units across 5 hospitals throughout the Pittsburgh region ◇ Served as preceptor for new nursing staff member

**Research**

**Aug.2005 – Jan. 2008**

**Research Associate**

*University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC)*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

**Study: NINR Promoting Self-Care After Lung Transplantation**

*Providing lung transplant recipients with a pocket computer and custom programs to monitor their condition, take medications, and communication with the transplant team would help prevent and detect the acute complications interfering with the quality of survival after transplantation*

◇ Developed study protocols and procedures ◇ Scheduled, interviewed, and assessed study participants in clinical setting ◇ Created database in SPSS (a predictive analytic software) ◇ Educated intervention group study participants on how to use the study's pocket PC device as well as custom Windows-based programs ◇ Trained new staff on study procedures and intervention protocol ◇ Promoted participant retention through professional and pleasant interactions

**Administrative**

**Medical Coding Specialist**

**July 2002 – Aug. 2005**

**Medical Billing Specialist**

**July 2001 – July 2002**

*University of Pittsburgh Physicians*

*Pittsburgh, PA*

## Teaching

### Adjunct Instructor

*Pittsburgh Technical Institute*

◇ Instructed LPNs on how to assess patients, pass medications, chart, communicate with patients, problem solve, and interpret labs ◇ Taught students about medications and their interactions as well as how to perform tube feedings, dressing changes, IV administration, and ambulation support

**Dec. 2012 – May 2014**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

### Adjunct Instructor

*Community College of Allegheny County*

◇ Acted as an advisor to ADN students regarding educational needs, performance levels, consistency in practice, and adherence to school policies and procedures ◇ Correlated clinical experience with theory ◇ Provided expertise clinical and functional instruction

**Sept. 2012 – Jan. 2013**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

### Adjunct Instructor

*Duquesne University*

◇ Assessed BSN students' clinical experiences including patient assessment, medication administration, charting, patient communication, problem solving, ambulation, dressing changes, tube feedings, and IV administration ◇ Evaluated clinical worksheets, care maps, post conference presentations, and portfolio updates

**Aug. 2011 – Sept. 2012**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

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## Presentations & Publications

DeVito Dabbs, A.J., Dew, M.A., Myers, B., Begey, A., Hawkins, R., Ren, D., Dunbar-Jacob, J., OConnell, E. & McCurry, K.R. Evaluation of a hand-held, computer-based intervention to promote early self-care behaviors after lung transplant. *Clinical Transplantation* 2009: 23: 537-545.

OConnell, E. Alternate Treatments for Individuals with a Spinal Cord Injury. *Journal of Nurse Life Care Planning* 2017: 17: 22-26.

### “Care of the Perianesthesia Patient”

*Juris Education Research and Knowledge*

**May 2015**

*Webinar*

### “Development of SDPU/PACU Orientation Program”

*Pittsburgh VA/Frontline Leadership Program*

**April 2015**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

### “Development and Implementation of the Joint Commission Patient Identification Requirements”

*VA Pittsburgh Health System and Spring Hill College Students*

**March 2015**

*Pittsburgh, PA*

### “A NLCP Developed for the Spinal Cord Injury Patient”

*AANLCP Annual-The Sky's the Limit Conference*

**March 2019**

*Las Vegas, NV*

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## Honors & Awards

### Frontline Leadership Program

2013 – 2015

Teach selected participants specific communication skills as well as how to identify problems in the workplace, seek and implement resolutions, and educate co-workers on the outcomes.

### 2014 FINE Award, Platinum Winner

March 2014

Part of the Same-day Surgery Unit of the Pittsburgh VA recognized by the Regional Anesthesia and Pain Prevention for Joint Replacement for excellence in healthcare for the pre/post-surgical nerve block program development. This program decreases the amount of sedation required during surgery and provided the Veteran with increased pain control after surgery and improved patient turn-around time.

### Leadership Residency Program

2010 – 2011

Selected for the VA Pittsburgh Health System Leadership Residency Program

- Performed chart reviews for potential peer reviews
- After each survey assisted the Accreditation Specialist on follow-up and submission of corrective action required by each group

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## Professional Affiliations & Committees

### Member of the VA Nursing Standards of Care Committee

2013 – 2016

Continually researching nursing standards of care, reviewing the VA's policies, updating as needed and enforcing the updates within the VA

### Member of the VA Patient Safety Goal Committee

2015 - 2016

Collaborate with other members to ensure the Pittsburgh VA was up to date with all Joint Commission patient safety goals.

### AANLCP (American Association of Nurse Life Care Planners)

2014 – Present

- National Research Committee
- President-elect
- President
- Past President

2016-2017

1/2018-7/2018

8/2018-12/2020

1/2021-12/2021

### AALNC (American Association of Legal Nurse Consultants), National

2012-Present

#### AALNC Pittsburgh Chapter

2012-2016

- Director at Large
- Secretary

2013-2014

2014-2015

#### West Virginia/Upper Ohio Valley Chapter of the AALNC

2017-Present

- WV/UV Chapter of the AALNC Webinar Chair

2017-2018