

Curriculum Vitae

**RHONDA PINKERMAN**

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**Current Position** \_\_\_\_\_

- Thoracic Surgery Nurse Practitioner at Veteran's Hospital, Nashville, TN
- President of Poo Doo Productions, Pet Product Company, Nashville, TN

**Education** \_\_\_\_\_

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|-----------|---|----------------|
| 2000–2001 | Vanderbilt University   | Nashville, TN  |
| •         | Master of Science in Nursing, Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Program |                |
| 1990–1995 | University of Alabama   | Birmingham, AL |
| •         | Bachelor of Science of Nursing                                      |                |
| 1990      | University of Alabama   | Birmingham, AL |
| •         | Emergency Medical Technician Certification                          |                |

**Certifications/Licensure** \_\_\_\_\_

- Acute Care Nurse Practitioner certification–0363797, expires 10/31/16
- Acute Care Nurse Practitioner license–APN00000008018, expires 7/31/17
- Tennessee RN license–RN0000127055, expires 7/31/17
- Florida RN license–RN2925102, expires 7/31/16
- DEA license–MP0813748, expires 3/31/2017
- NPI (National Provider Identifier)–1508940610
- First Assistant
- ACLS– (Advanced Cardiac Life Support) expires 5/1/17
- BLS– (Basic Life Support) expires 5/01/17
- TNCC Instructor (trauma casualty care course)
- CCRN (critical care nurse certification)
- ATLS (advanced trauma life support)– performed life saving procedures including central lines, chest tubes, arterial lines, and intubation on goats

**Professional Organizations/Activities** \_\_\_\_\_

- American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
- Tennessee Nurses Association
- TREAT Lung Cancer Research Team
- VA Lung Cancer Research Team
- Nashville SCORE

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## Professional Experience

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2009–present      Veteran’s Administration      Nashville, TN

- Division of Thoracic Surgery Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- First Assistant in the operating room with over 300 hours of operating room time
- Assist in management of inpatients daily to include history, physical exams, plan, and discharge of patient.
- Management of large outpatient lung and esophagus tumor patients
- Responsible for scheduling patients for the operating room and studies/consults needed preoperatively
- Outpatient clinic responsibilities one day a week with approximately 10–15 patients to include history and physical exams
- Assist in emergency room consults
- Currently working on 3 research projects for the lung cancer patient, submitting IRB approval in the next several months
- Developed evidence based order sets and discharge teaching letter for patients. This has streamlined patient care for the NP’s, residents, nurses, and case managers
- Worked with commodities committee to get new surgical instruments for improved patient care
- Quality improvement project reviewing thoracic surgery postoperative patient care surveys and implementing changes for improvement
- Worked collaboratively with process improvement team on new CPRS consult template and lodging for veterans prior to their surgery. Currently working with them on scheduling issues

2012–present      Poo Doo Productions      Nashville, TN

- Owner, Pet Product Business for Patent Pending Leash I invented
- Involved in all aspects of business management to include manufacturing, marketing, sales, accounting, public relations

2011      Veteran’s Administration      Nashville, TN

- Preceptor, volunteer clinical faculty for Nurse Practitioner student for University of Cincinnati

2006–2009      Vanderbilt University      Nashville, TN

- Division of Orthopedic–Spine Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- First Assistant in the operating room with over 500 hours of operating room time
- Management of approximately 20 inpatients daily on the orthopedic spine service
- Obtain patient history and physical exams, write admission orders, patient assessments, progress notes, dictate discharge summaries, and emergency room consults

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- Perform independently in the orthopedic–spine fracture clinic and postoperative clinic seeing approximately 30 patients in a half day clinic. Responsibilities include multidisciplinary planning with rehab services, case management services, and primary care physicians
- Participated in outpatient elective orthopedic spine clinic with attending physician seeing approximately 50 patients per clinic
- Worked in collaboration with attending physician in the assessment and diagnosis of the spine trauma patient with skills including halo placement/removal, interpretation of x-rays and MRI's
- Provided leadership in the application of the nursing process by developing the first NP program for the orthopedic spine division. This program required writing protocols for the NP to include: procedures, approved patient medications, credentialing requirements, computer inpatient order sets, and nursing pathways for the inpatient orthopedic department
- Provided outcome data for the creation of the NP service that included management of the fracture clinic, post operative clinic, first assisting in the operating room, triaging patient problems, and required patient paperwork has allowed the surgeon to double his caseload. With reimbursement of first assisting, this NP has paid for 90% of my salary. This has contributed to the decreased responsibilities and work hours for the orthopedic residents
- Developed patient teaching sheets on common orthopedic spine procedures
- Developed check lists and teaching for the surgery schedulers to ensure patient safety with upcoming surgical procedures and schedule surgeries as needed
- Developed protocols for the orthopedic triage nurse to follow when answering spine phone calls in regards to pain medications, tests to be ordered, patient education, activity orders, appointment guidelines, and common spine questions
- Worked in conjunction with orthopedic department and hospital supply center for a cost effective brace program for spine patients
- Developed evidence based order sets and discharge teaching letter for patients. This has streamlined patient care for the NP's, residents, nurses, case managers, and physical therapists. These order sets have decreased length of stay for patients and cut down on patient phone calls.
- Developed NP/Attending physician service at St. Thomas hospital for the spine patient. This required standard orders, credentialing of the NP, procedure protocols, and first assisting in the operating room. This was created due to the limitations of resident work hours and residents unable to obtain privileges at St. Thomas hospital.
- Provided leadership in identifying and addressing an ethical issue with a narcotic abusing patient. A drug intervention was performed with the family, the patient, the supervising physician, a social worker, and me. This intervention resulted in the patient being admitted to an inpatient drug dependency program.
- Responsible for the credentialing of the orthopedic spine surgeons for the National Committee for Quality Assurance. This is a private, not-for-profit organization dedicated to improving health care quality. Responsibilities include maintaining data bases for infection, spinal leaks, smoking cessation treatments, readmissions, surgical errors, and outcomes data.
- Worked on several committees for the development of the new Spine Institute at

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Vanderbilt. This is a collaborative effort with neurosurgery and the orthopedic spine division requiring an interdisciplinary approach. The new Spine Institute will allow improved access for patient care and streamline the two disciplines.

2006–2010                      Cross Country Education                      Nashville, TN

- NP educational consultant assessing conference material for the midlevel provider to ensure it meets AANP guidelines for continuing education credits for NP's
- Reviews NP/PA applicants to see if individual is qualified to speak at a national level

2001–2010      Middle Tennessee Advanced Practice Nurses Association      Nashville, TN

- Elected volunteer board member holding office as the secretary and legislative chair person
- Attended national conferences on health care issues and updates members
- Sent out email alerts to advanced practice nurses on upcoming issues and when to contact their congress members
- Spoke monthly to my elected officials about nursing concerns by sending letters with signed petitions. Recent petitions have included over 100 member signatures on these issues: smoking cessation, maintaining helmet law, non licensed personnel giving medications to patients, NP's signing death certificates, NP's signing disability placards, and NP's prescribing home health orders. Recently attended legislative day on the hill discussing nursing and NP issues.
- Organized the Race for the Cure participation for our members in support of breast cancer research by setting up a booth for MTAPN to pass out water/food to runners and participate in run

2004–2009                      Belmont University/Vanderbilt University                      Nashville, TN

- Clinical Acute Care Nursing instructor for senior nursing students at Belmont with approximately 12 students per semester
- Guest lecturer on orthopedic topics and precepting NP students for Vanderbilt University. Taught four NP students during this time frame

2004–2006                      Vanderbilt University                      Nashville, TN

- Division of Orthopedic–Trauma Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Management of approximately 40–60 injured orthopedic trauma inpatients
- Obtain patient history and physical exams, write admission orders, daily patient assessments, daily progress notes, and dictate discharge summaries for the orthopedic trauma patient.
- Work in collaboration with the trauma team, pharmacy, social workers, physical therapists, and hospitalists in the management of the complex orthopedic trauma patient
- First Assistant in the operating room
- Emergency Room consults for orthopedic trauma patients
- Developed evidence based computer generated inpatient order sets and pathways for the orthopedic trauma patient streamlining patient care for the residents, NP's, physical therapists, nurses, and case managers

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- Developed a computer discharge teaching sheet for patients which resulted in decreased patient phone calls
- Developed outpatient clinic educational sheets on the patients injury
- Gave orthopedic lectures to staff nurses on compartment syndrome
- Orientated new nurse practitioners and interns to orthopedic trauma service
- Provided leadership in the application of the nursing process by developing the first NP program for the orthopedic trauma division. This program required writing protocols for the NP to include: procedures, approved patient medications, credentialing requirements, computer inpatient order sets, and nursing pathways for the inpatient orthopedic department
- Participated in screening patients and consenting patients for orthopedic trauma research studies

2002–2004

Vanderbilt University

Nashville, TN

- Division of Trauma– Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- Perform clinical procedures: wound irrigation, simple laceration suturing, arterial line insertion, central line change over the guide wire and insertion, chest tube insertion with observation
- Obtain patient history and physical exams, write admission orders, daily patient assessments, daily progress notes, and dictate discharge summaries
- Review and interpret critical care patient data in collaboration with the trauma team
- Provide in house coverage for all patients on the trauma service requiring patient assessment and management with a census of 30–60 patients
- Developed in collaboration with the trauma surgeons, NP's, and hospital administration, the first NP/attending surgeon service without residents. This allowed a decreased work load for the residents in regards to the 80 hour work week restriction. This required evidence based protocols, credentialing, procedures guidelines defined by the AANP and the East Coast Trauma Surgeon's for management of the complex trauma patient
- Gave lectures to the floor nurses on chest tube management, ABG interpretation, and sepsis
- Attended monthly NP meetings for education and training. Gave 3 one hour lectures to NP's for CEU's.
- Organized 2 hour suture workshop for NP's
- Attended two day central line insertion course
- Attended Crew Training team building course for Vanderbilt employees

2000–2001

Saint Thomas/Baptist Hospital

Nashville, TN

- Emergency Department staff nurse and Intensive Care Staff Nurse
- Part time staff nurse in a Level 2 ED/SICU/MICU while obtaining graduate degree

1998–2000

United States Naval Hospital

Sigonella, Italy

- United States Naval Nurse in the Emergency Department
- Charge nurse overseeing approximately ten people including nurses and EMS team

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- Responsible for the supervision and training of the paraprofessional and professional staff of the ED as the educational officer
- Organizer of the education, training, and scheduling of personnel for the ICU coverage team within the hospital. This required monthly educational in-services
- Transport EVAC nurse for the critically ill patient to higher level of care institutions including overseas and stateside
- Additional military training including mass casualty care course with treatment of nuclear, chemical, and biological agent injuries

1996–1998                      Shands/ University Hospital                      Jacksonville, FL  
• Part time staff nurse position in the MICU, CCU, SICU, and ED at a level 1 facility

- 1995–1998                      United States Naval Hospital                      Jacksonville, FL
- United States Naval Officer
  - Navy Nurse in the Medical–Surgical Intensive Care unit PACU coverage
  - Medical–Surgical staff nurse with responsibilities of scheduling 15 personnel, and shift charge nurse overseeing approximately 15 nurses and corpsmen
  - Attended 2 week critical care desert course for the management of the wounded soldier with mass casualty drills
  - Attended 6 week critical care course for the management of the ICU patient
  - Attended 2 week team building and management course

## Past Research Projects

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- Indium–Dotate study coordinator—worked with collaborating surgeon in attempts of developing new surgical techniques to detect lung tumors in the operating room
- Co author in the American Journal of Surgery for the peer reviewed article: St. Julien J\*, Pinkerman R, Aldrich MC, Chen H, Deppen S, Callaway–Lane C, Massion PP, Putnam JB, Lambright ES, Nesbit JC, Grogan EL. Poor Survival for Veterans with Pathologic Stage I Non–Small Cell Lung Cancer. American Journal of Surgery 2012;5: 637–642. PMID: 22906246
- Co author in the Journal of Thoracic Oncology for the peer reviewed article: Deppen SA, Blume JD, Aldrich MC, Fletcher SA, Massion PP, Walker RC, Chen HC, Speroff T, Degesys CA, Pinkerman R, Lambright ES, Nesbitt JC, Putnam JB Jr, Grogan EL. Predicting lung cancer prior to surgical resection in patients with lung nodules. J Thoracic Oncology. 2014 Oct;9(10):1477–84
- Compression fracture brace study---contact person for IRB, consenting patients, maintaining data base, and assessing patients in clinic for follow up
- Stryker cancellous screw study----contact person for the IRB, dissected cadavers for hardware placement, in charge of maintaining budget for project, and maintaining data base
- MRI imaging vs. dynamic x-rays with lumbar spondylolisthesis---submitted for publication. Attended conference in Geneva Switzerland May 2008 for presentation with surgeon

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- Worked on a computer generated outcomes database for the orthopedic spine patient to assist in research with over 400 patients. The database includes the SF36 score, the Oswestry score, and the Neck Disability Index. This is the foundation for all orthopedic research and was a pilot program starting in the orthopedic division
- Completed CITI training to follow ethical guidelines for the research patient. Completed refresher course on 9/27/14

## • **Current Research Projects/Interests**\_\_\_\_\_

- Database administrator for the VA Lung Cancer Database for patients who have undergone surgical resection. This database will be used for several upcoming research projects to include finding the cause of increased mortality in the veteran population compared to the national average
- Preoperative exercise program to decrease mortality and postoperative complications
- Quality Management outcomes project comparing bedside pleurodesis to operating room pleurodesis
- Article currently in manuscript for JAMA Surgery related to lung cancer screening

## • **Extramural Activities/Interests**\_\_\_\_\_

- Member of Crosspoint Community Church
- National Parks and Wildlife member
- USAT triathlon member
- Nashville Hike and Meet Up member
- Owner of Poo Doo Productions, Patent Pending dog leash I invented

## • **References available upon request**

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