

# nursing newsletter



## A WORD FROM THE ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR - ER AND MENTAL HEALTH

Dear colleagues,

As summer is in full swing, I would like to take a moment to express my appreciation and acknowledge the hard work and resilience of all nursing teams across the MUHC. Despite constant pressure, you support your colleagues, integrate new members, and provide excellent care to our patients. You also find the time to support families by helping them assist their loved ones and participate in their care.

I would also like to highlight the work of the intermediate care teams at the Lachine Hospital, who have worked tirelessly to plan and open the unit despite the challenges posed by staff shortages. Thank you all for the work you have already accomplished and continue to do in preparation for the opening of the new pavilion in 2026.

I'm happy to give you a heads up on two new projects that will be launched this fall. The first is a project in collaboration with the CHUM, which aims to better support our mental health patients living with addiction disorders. The second, the September launch of the Règle d'utilisation des ressources des Urgences (RUR). You will soon start to hear more about this tool that is designed to improve patient care by providing a framework that standardises and clarifies certain practices in the ED.

I hope you have the opportunity to enjoy the month of August with your loved ones and take a well-deserved rest.

Happy reading and have a great end to your summer, everyone!

Benoit Cousineau

## CLINICAL EDUCATION

### Tracheostomy Workshop: Enhance Your Skills!

Adult

#### Are you looking to...

- Learn more about tracheostomies?
- Know how to best care for tracheostomy patients on your units?
- Know how to best intervene in a tracheostomy emergency?
- Work on your day-to-day tracheostomy skills?

#### Don't miss this in-depth bilingual Tracheostomy Workshop!

- On October 7, 2025, from 8:00 to 16:00
- Registration limit: **September 26, 2025**
- Offers 7 accredited hours of continuing education
- Designed specifically for Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses, Assistant Nurse Managers, Nurse Managers, and Nurse Practitioners.

Through hands-on simulations and sessions led by various healthcare professionals and experts, refine your expertise and enhance the care provided to patients!

**Spots are limited: reserve yours with your manager/NPDE.**

By the workshop organizers Raphaëlle Bastarache, Ellen Stevenson and Carissa Wong,  
Advanced Practice Nurses in Surgery



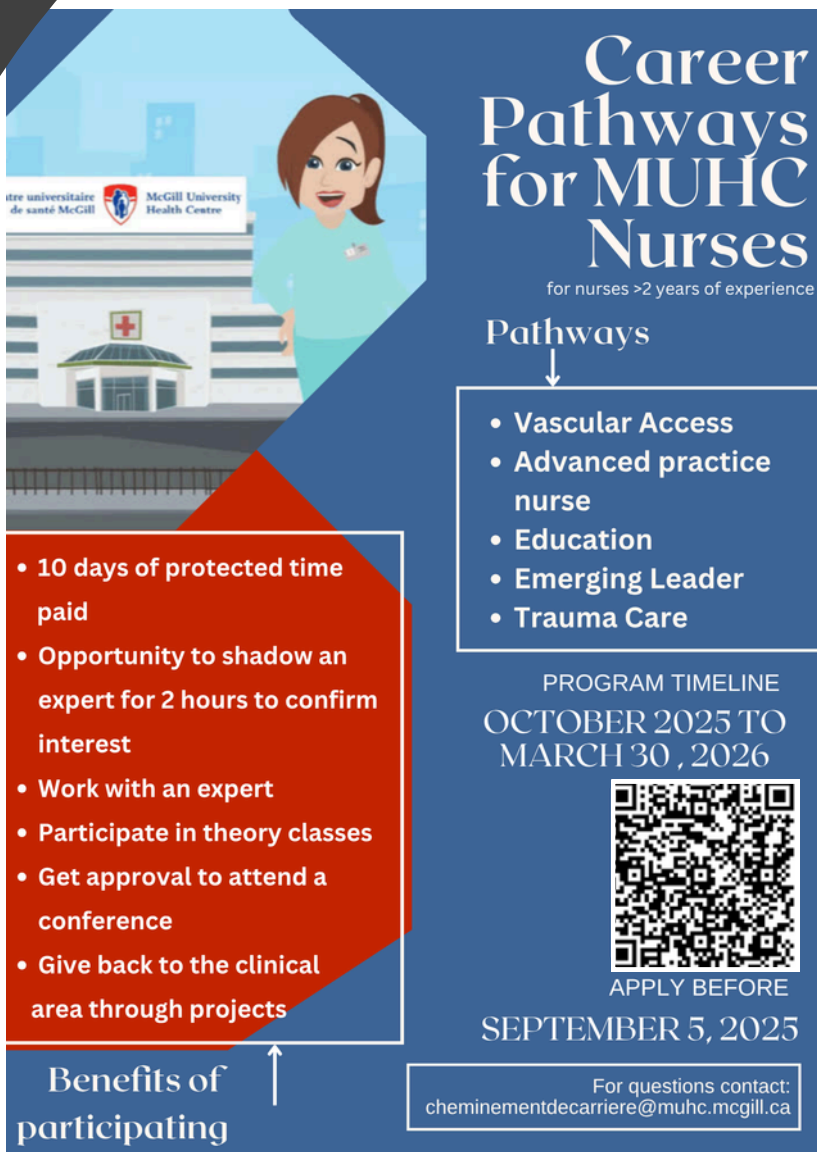
Please ensure that this workshop is pertinent for your clinical practice.

Adult +  
Pediatric

## Call for Applications – Career Pathways Program

**The application period is now open!**

Looking to enhance your skills and advance your career? Submit your application form by **September 5** to join the next cohort of the Career Pathways Program.




**Career Pathways for MUHC Nurses**  
for nurses >2 years of experience

**Pathways**

- Vascular Access
- Advanced practice nurse
- Education
- Emerging Leader
- Trauma Care

**PROGRAM TIMELINE**  
**OCTOBER 2025 TO MARCH 30, 2026**



**APPLY BEFORE**  
**SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

**For questions contact:**  
cheminementdecariere@muhc.mcgill.ca

**Benefits of participating**

- 10 days of protected time paid
- Opportunity to shadow an expert for 2 hours to confirm interest
- Work with an expert
- Participate in theory classes
- Get approval to attend a conference
- Give back to the clinical area through projects

**We are excited to share the testimonials of three participants about their experience in the Career Pathways Program.**

**They explain how the program allowed them to learn, grow, and gain confidence in their roles as nurses:**

*I am incredibly proud of the projects I was able to complete. My involvement in this pathway confirmed my belief that educating is a huge part of what I want in my career.*

*I found myself challenged to adapt my style of teaching and explore different tools and methods of teaching. I found great pleasure and joy in seeing my projects come together and receiving the positive feedback from colleagues who appreciated my work.*

*It is satisfying to know that my tools were used and that they brought about feedback and involvement from colleagues who wanted to expand the projects to further aid the unit.*

**Karina Brundl, RVH D7 – Education Pathway**  
**Mentor : Jocelyne Blondeau, Nurse Educator**

*The vascular access career pathway (Vascular Access in Hemodialysis), helped me gain in-depth knowledge and a comprehensive understanding of how to effectively manage problems and procedures regarding dialysis vascular access.*

*The focus on proper care for patients undergoing hemodialysis included the types of vascular access used in hemodialysis; maintenance; proper assessment and monitoring; common complications and their management; and prevention of infection related to vascular access.*

*The program contributed to my personal growth as a dialysis nurse. The experience in joining the program has improved my skills and widened my understanding in relation to vascular access.*

**Daisy Sabanal, Dialysis Lachine – Vascular Access Pathway**  
**Mentors : Julia Csender, Vascular Access Nurse Clinician and Vicki Tan, Advanced Practice Nurse**

*This experience provided me with knowledge that I can use in my professional life. I find myself applying what I learned in infection control to my everyday practice.*

*On the floor, I have become much more mindful of my actions, especially when it comes to preventing the spread of bacteria. I now make a conscious effort to follow best practices and ensure that I am not contributing to the transmission of infections.*

*Gaining knowledge in an area I previously knew little about has not only expanded my clinical understanding but also made me a more responsible and attentive healthcare provider.*

**Vanessa Cammuso, HGM 18 – Infection Control Pathway**  
**Mentors : Janette Morlese and Alexandra Hutchins, Conseillères en soins, Infection Control**

# Vascular Access Career Pathway

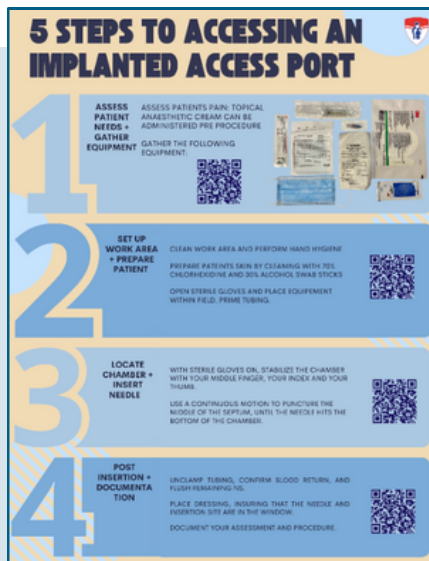
Led by RVH D10 hematology-oncology nurse **Olivia Jenne**, in collaboration with **Katherine Mohsen** and **Carissa Wong**, a new educational tool was developed through the Career Pathway program to strengthen nurses' competence in vascular access devices.

In response to staff-identified areas for improvement, the project introduced:

- a **Central Line tip sheet**
- a **step-by-step guide to accessing implanted ports**
- **instructional videos**

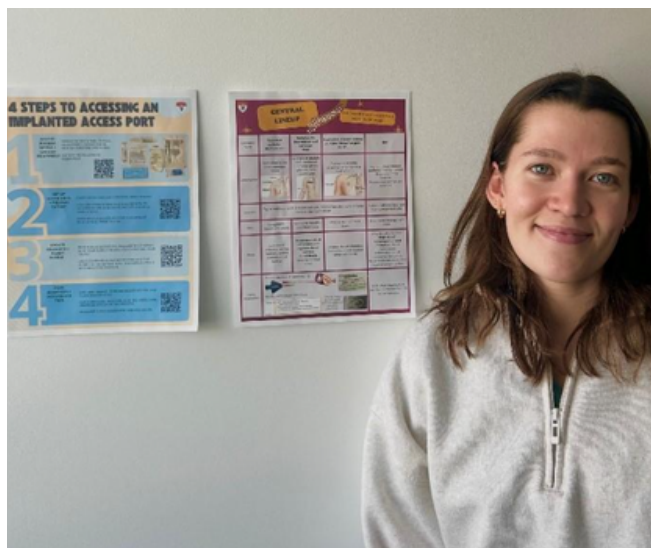
These tools aim to enhance confidence and advance clinical practice among nurses on D10.

Watch the project presentation:



CENTRAL LINEUP				
Catheter type	Tunneled catheter ex. Hickman	Peripherally inserted central catheter (PICC)	Implanted vascular access port (also known as port-a-cath)	RY
Description	Tunneled in the subcutaneous tissue	A single or double non-tunneled catheter often placed in the basilic vein	A single or double chamber attached to a catheter	A short, single lumen catheter, ideally placed in the veins of the forearm. Favour smallest gauge possible.
Location	Tip of catheter ends in a central vein, most often the superior vena cava or the right atrium			A short catheter inserted into a peripheral vein
Uses	Long term: months to years	Weeks to months; less than 1 year	Long term: months to years	Short term therapy: 4-7 days
Risks	Low risk of infection as the tunnel creates antimicrobial barrier	Moderate risk of infection and highest risk of venous thrombosis among central lines	Lowest risk of infection, due to its closed system when not in use.	Low risk of infection, high risk of extravasation and infiltration. Avoid continuous administration of vesicants, irritants or hyperosmotic solutions. This requires a central line.
Power (injectable)	Check device or packaging	Verify with insertion note	Check device or packaging	20G often required, CT can be contacted for info on exceptions.

Katherine Mohsen will ensure the sustainability of this tool and continue to provide support with vascular access across the MUHC adult sites.



By Olivia Jenne, Nurse, RVH D10 hematology-oncology

*This project has been incredibly rewarding, allowing me to address key areas of need among staff. I was surprised to learn that over 80% of nurses used both tools to improve their practice.*

*Feedback highlighted that nurses found the resources valuable in supporting their practice, including using the tool to carry out unfamiliar practices such as determining CT compatibility and accessing an implanted access port.*

*Knowing that this will have a positive impact on patient outcomes on D10 makes it all the more meaningful*

Olivia Jenne



Any questions about the Career Pathways?

Write to: [cheminementcarriere@muhc.mcgill.ca](mailto:cheminementcarriere@muhc.mcgill.ca)

## A small label, a big impact!

**Accurate labeling is a cornerstone of patient safety.**

Loose labels as a rule are dangerous, as they are easily lost/ missed, and result in confusion (Is this test requested? Cancelled? Extra?). It may also incur a result as 'no specimen received'.

### Help make positive identifications!

Patient Identification not done at **bedside** risks identification errors, so identifying specimens using loose labels at the lab is not recommended. By ensuring everyone adheres to the same labeling practices, we are promoting consistency and excellence.

### Save your time!

Reduce the risk of errors and re-collection with clear labeling. A little prevention now can save time and resources down the line.

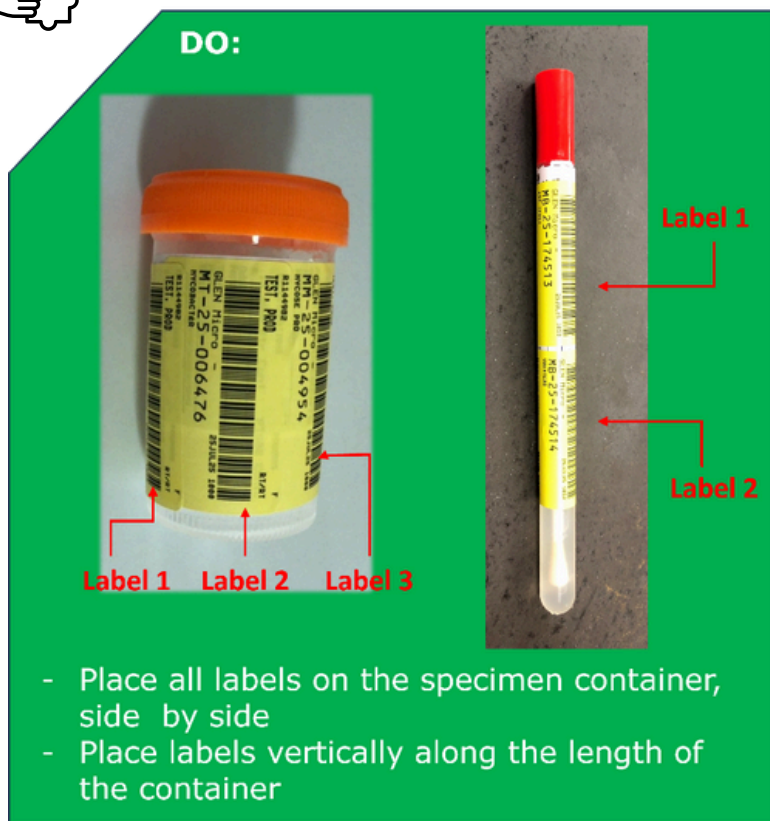
### Happy patients, happy clinicians:

Less recollections, less delays, less complaints, more timely and accurate results, makes the entire team happy. Win- win !



How can I help?

**DO:**



**DO NOT:**



By Karen Ng, ACT Quality, Lachine-MGH sites, and  
Nadine Bernier, ACT Quality, Microbiology-Glen site



## Evaluating a Protocol for Tracheostomy Decannulation at MUHC



A recent study conducted at the MUHC assessed the effectiveness of a structured capping trial protocol designed to facilitate safe tracheostomy decannulation in adult patients. Led by **Jasmine L. Hill, RN**, and a multidisciplinary team including professionals from nursing, respiratory therapy, speech-language pathology, and otolaryngology, the research aimed to **formally evaluate a protocol developed in 2016**.

The descriptive observational study involved **44 adult inpatients** who underwent a standardized capping trial to determine readiness for decannulation. Patients were monitored for respiratory distress, secretion management, and overall tolerance. Key indicators such as age, anxiety levels, and Glasgow Coma Scale (GCS) scores were analyzed.

Findings revealed a high success rate of **89%**, with most patients requiring only one trial attempt. While age and anxiety levels did not significantly impact outcomes, a higher GCS score was strongly associated with successful decannulation.

This study highlights the value of structured, multidisciplinary approaches in improving patient outcomes and supports the continued use and refinement of the MUHC protocol. Future research is recommended to explore long-term outcomes and additional influencing factors.

Read [the full article in the Tracheostomy Journal](#).

By Jasmine Lee Hill, Nursing Practice Consultant

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Accreditation 2025: Quick survey on information transfer

Adult +  
Pediatric

As part of our preparation for Accreditation 2025, we invite you to complete a short bilingual survey (less than 5 minutes) on the **Transfer of Information at Care Transitions**, a Required Organizational Practice (ROP).

The questions focus on two essential components of clinical communication:

- **handover reports**
- **patient transfers**

Your responses are **confidential** (only unit and mission names are recorded) and will be compiled as supporting evidence for Accreditation.

**Thank you for contributing to our ongoing commitment to quality and safe care!**

By Josée Lizotte, Nursing Directorate



#### Who should complete the survey?

All nursing staff: Assistant Nurse Managers, Registered Nurses, Licensed Practical Nurses.

Managers, NPDEs and APNs are also invited to respond for the units they cover, if they are familiar with handover and transfer practices.



**Deadline: Friday, September 22, 2025**



### MUHC Suicide Prevention Webinar

Adult +  
Pediatric

**Suicide prevention concerns us all.**

Join us on **Tuesday, September 30, from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.** for a webinar that will:

- Present nursing practice statistics
- Review the expected practices in light of recent updates to the protocol and tools
- Highlight opportunities for improvement

*This session will also be an excellent opportunity to prepare for the upcoming Accreditation Canada visit.*

By Josée Lizotte, Nursing Practice Consultant

**Register here:**



#### CO-EDITORS OF THIS NEWSLETTER:

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Silvia Rizeanu, Communications Agent

Please submit your articles for the next newsletter before **August 29**.