

Chantal Howard, DNP, RN, CEN, NEA-BC

Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer
Duke University Hospital

Dr. Chantal Howard is the Chief Nursing and Patient Care Services Officer at Duke University Hospital, where she provides executive leadership for nursing and patient care services across the inpatient and ambulatory continuum. With more than 30 years of nursing experience, she is responsible for strategic, operational, and fiscal oversight to advance clinical excellence, patient safety, and quality outcomes within a complex academic medical center.

Dr. Howard leads nursing practice and professional standards across the organization, ensuring alignment with regulatory requirements and evidence-based care. She oversees large-scale operations and workforce strategies, with a focus on innovation, care delivery transformation, and optimizing the patient and team member experience. Under her leadership, Duke University Hospital has advanced multiple initiatives, including innovation units, virtual nursing models, and integration of smart technologies to reduce nursing burden and improve outcomes.

Throughout her career, Dr. Howard has held a variety of progressive leadership roles, including Vice President of Nursing, Director of Emergency Services, Director of Cardiovascular Nursing, and Nurse Manager of an emergency department. Her clinical and leadership background spans multiple regions and diverse healthcare settings.

She earned her Doctor of Nursing Practice from Duke University School of Nursing and holds a Master of Science in Nursing. She is board certified as an Advanced Nurse Executive (NEA-BC) and in emergency nursing (CEN).

Dr. Howard is an active leader in professional and community organizations. She is a member of the American Organization for Nursing Leadership (AONL), the Emergency Nurses Association (ENA), the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN), the North Carolina Nurses Association (NCNA), and the North Carolina Organization of Nurse Leaders (NCONL), where she serves as President.

She is deeply engaged in community-based initiatives, particularly in the prevention of domestic violence. She serves on the Board of the North Carolina Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCCADV), the Wake County EMS Research Board, and the Wake County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. She has partnered with INTERACT and the Durham Crisis Center to implement the Lethality Assessment Program, supporting identification and intervention for individuals at high risk of intimate partner violence.

Dr. Howard has contributed to advancing clinical practice through the implementation of one of Brooklyn, New York's first Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner programs and has presented at the state and national level on disaster management, stroke care, and nursing leadership.