

# Sharon Hillgartner, MBSCR, RN-CBN, FASMBS-IH

## Executive Profile

Integrated Health leader, Certified Bariatric Nurse, and FASMBS-IH with more than two decades advancing bariatric care quality, accreditation, and multidisciplinary program development across hospitals, health systems, and national organizations. Recognized for elevating MBSAQIP standards, strengthening data-driven quality improvement, and mentoring coordinators, nurses, and allied health professionals. A respected educator, speaker, and council contributor with a sustained record of service to ASMBS, TABS, NTNP, and national quality initiatives. Committed to advancing the voice, visibility, and professional growth of Integrated Health members across all disciplines.

## Leadership Strengths

- Integrated Health Advocacy & Council Leadership
- MBSAQIP Accreditation & Quality Improvement
- Bariatric Program Development & Expansion
- Multidisciplinary Collaboration & Governance
- Data Abstraction (MBSCR) & Registry Optimization
- Clinical Education, Mentorship & Workforce Development
- Patient Safety, Pathway Design & Process Improvement
- National Speaking, Curriculum Development & Professional Engagement

## Professional Experience

### Providence St. Patrick Hospital — Bariatric Program Coordinator

*September 2022–Present*

- Lead MBS Coordinator functions, ensuring compliance with MBSAQIP standards and driving continuous quality improvement.
- Directed the facility's initial MBSAQIP application, achieving **Comprehensive Center designation (8/31/23)**.
- Provide patient education, support group leadership, and multidisciplinary staff training.
- Serve as liaison for MBSCR learning and data abstraction, strengthening registry accuracy and QI alignment.

### Lynne Thompson Consulting / Clinical Registry Solutions — Bariatric Program Consultant & MBSCR

*May 2020–Present*

- Guide hospitals and practices through bariatric and obesity medicine program development, accreditation readiness, and quality optimization.
- Conduct comprehensive assessments and mock site surveys (virtual and on-site).
- Provide certified MBSCR data abstraction and registry support to improve outcomes reporting and QI initiatives.

## **Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital of Flower Mound — Director of Specialty Services**

*February 2015–May 2020*

- Directed Bariatric, Spine, and Total Joint service lines, implementing COE standards and leading multidisciplinary teams.
- Achieved **initial MBSAQIP accreditation (2016)** and **reaccreditation with no deficiencies (2019)**.
- Oversaw OPTUM COE, Aetna IOQ, and Blue Distinction designations across all service lines.
- Led perioperative education, pathway development, and patient navigation for bariatric services.
- Chaired the Multidisciplinary Bariatric Committee and contributed to multiple quality and safety committees.
- Founding member of the THR System Bariatric Collaborative, advancing system-wide best practices.

## **Forest Park Medical Centers — Director of Bariatrics & Wellness Shared Services**

*January 2014–January 2015*

- Directed bariatric program development across **5 hospitals and 3 satellite clinics**, ensuring alignment with ASMB/MBSAQIP standards.
- Supervised system-wide Bariatric Nurse Practitioners and provided clinical coverage.
- Led MBSAQIP applications, recertifications, and COE acquisitions for Aetna IOQ, Blue Distinction, and UHC COE.
- Delivered clinical and educational leadership for bundled pricing programs in Bariatrics, Orthopedics, and Spine.

## **Bariatric Program Coordinator/Director & Nurse Practitioner**

*February 2012–August 2014*

- Managed program operations, accreditation compliance, and staff oversight.
- Provided pre- and post-operative care, facilitated seminars and support groups, and delivered discharge education for **2,000–3,400 surgeries annually**.
- Restored program quality processes following coordinator vacancy and supported dual-site leadership needs.

## **Texas Health Resources — Nurse Practitioner Roles**

*August 2009–February 2012*

- **Cancer Risk Reduction & Genetics:** Opened new high-risk cancer program; led community outreach and supported EMR implementation across multiple sites.
- **Heart & Vascular Wellness Center:** Developed Women's Heart and Vascular Screening programs; earned **state award for cardiovascular and stroke prevention (2010)**; managed operations and community education.

## **Additional Clinical Roles**

- **First Refuge Community Clinic — Volunteer NP (2017–2020)**
- **Helping Hands — WHNP (2006–2014)**
- **Institute of Health Promotion — Weight Loss & Aesthetics Provider (2006–2009)**
- **Center for Bariatric Surgery & NTX Laparoscopic Surgery — NP (2005–2006)**

## **Education**

- Women’s Health Care NP Program, UT Southwestern Medical Center
- Nursing Studies, University of Texas Arlington
- Associate Degree in Nursing, El Centro College

## **Certifications**

- FASMBS-IH (2024–Present)
- Certified Bariatric Nurse (2012–2028)
- MBSCR (2020–Present)
- WHNP-BC (2005–2023, retired)
- Prescriptive Authority (through 2022)
- Mammacare Clinical Breast Exam Certification (2011–2014)

## **Professional Leadership & Service**

- **ASMBS CBN IH Certification Council — Member (2021–Present), Co-Chair (2025–Present)**
- **ASMBS CBN Accreditation Committee — Leader (2020–2025)**
- **ASMBS Advanced Practice Exam Prep Committee — 2022, 2023**
- **TABS — President (2020), President-Elect (2018–2019), Secretary (2017)**
- **NTNP — Board President (2010), Legislative Committee (2011, 2019)**
- **AANP/TNP — Member and WHNP conference representative**

## **Selected National Presentations**

- ASMBS Annual Meeting — MBSCR, Coordinator, and Masters in Bariatrics Courses (2023–2026)
- American College of Surgeons Quality Conference — Patient Safety & EMR Integration (2019, 2020)
- TABS — Technology & Patient Safety (2019)
- National Neurology Conference — Sleep Deprivation & Weight Loss (2014)
- NTNP — Gynecologic Symptom Management (2008)

## **Awards & Honors**

- DFW Great 100 Nurses (2002)
- Strathmore’s Who’s Who in Healthcare (2003)
- Texas Cardiovascular Health Promotion Award (2010)