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A Medical Corporation

Oncology  
Hematology  
Internal Medicine

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Re: Ramon Duarte, R.N.

September 5, 2003

To Whom It May Concern:

I have known Mr. Ramon Duarte ("Ray") since 1970 when I was a Resident in Internal Medicine at LAC-USC Medical Center and he was an acute care dialysis nurse. Although I worked with him only briefly, I know that he was highly respected by the nephrologists as well as his fellow nurses.

From March, 1989 to September, 1997 I worked intensively with Ray when I was Director of the Apheresis Service at Santa Barbara Cottage Hospital. Ray was an invaluable member of the dialysis and apheresis nursing crew. We were involved in the care of some of the most critically ill patients admitted to the hospital. During one community outbreak of TTP (Thrombotic Thrombocytopenic Purpura) we were going day and night since there were more cases than there were machines. Although I know I complained, Ray NEVER did. He was always there and had the machines primed. Of course, these types of cases always pop up at midnight on weekends and holidays. Ray is probably the most dedicated nursing professional I have ever worked with.

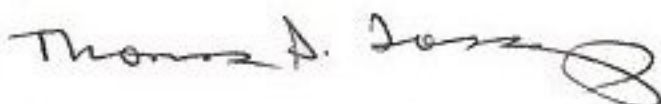
In addition to being dedicated, Ray is very well informed. He has had a lot of experience and seemed to learn from every bit of it. He somehow found time to read a great deal, take continuing educational courses and design and implement research projects. One of the joys of working with Ray was that not only could I teach him something but there was often a mutual exchange of information making for a stimulating professional environment. It helps tremendously to have this exchange when it's two o'clock in the morning and you are battling with a patient whose white count is 500,000 or platelet count is 2,000,000!

Ray is a loyal friend and devoted family man. I feel he is a man of high moral character and flawless integrity. He's the kind of guy you would want to "have your back" if you were in a tight spot. I truly miss working with him.

In short, I would unconditionally recommend Ray for any position he might be seeking. He has proven to me time and time again that I could rely on his knowledge, dedication, patient advocacy and yes, his sense of humor when things are critical and high stress.

Please do not hesitate to contact me should you have specific concerns about Mr. Duarte.

Sincerely,



Thomas S. Lossing, M.D.

TSL/cll