



# Nurse Excellence Aduware Osafugbe, LPN

**December 2022**



## Meet Aduware.

### Can you tell us about yourself?

As one of a family of nine, growing up in Nigeria was far from easy. My mother made it work for us by taking the brunt of supporting the family as a practical businesswoman. She taught us independence, responsibility, and compassion. She did everything with determination I try to emulate.

Much as we were fond of our home country, it did not take away the challenges or limited opportunities the new generation faced. Each of my siblings found their way to a different European country – UK, Italy, Germany, wherever they got the best offer for schooling.

For me it was different. My husband and I were fast friends in Nigeria and very fond of each other from a very young age. His family emigrated to America back when he was younger. We kept up for many years. When he grew older, he came back to Nigeria to visit and asked if I would come back with him. I said yes, making the best decision of my life.

As a new immigrant, the most appealing job opportunity, offering an easy entrance and little requirements was becoming a Home Health Aide. Assisting the elders at home gave me a feel of what caring is like. After a while I started going for classes to become a Certified Nursing Assistant, and later, a phlebotomist. My husband was amazing, encouraging me throughout.

I worked in NYU Langone as a CNA for more than 6 years. They deserve plenty of credit for my decision to continue schooling towards my nursing license, being a facility where career growth is encouraged. I watched CNAs becoming nurses and nurses becoming doctors. It helped me set my mind frame that I can do the same. The environment also gave me much exposure to the compassionate nature of nurses, the teamwork, and the incredible impact nurses have on their patients. My husband was all for it that I should dive into nursing, offering to pay for my schooling. I enrolled in AMG Nursing School for a condensed 12-month program. My older sister living in UK was a huge source of inspiration for me during that time. She was in nursing school while juggling her role as a mom of four at the same time. It gave me the feel that if she can do it, I can definitely handle it.

### **Once you obtained your nursing license, did you continue in a nursing facility?**

Upon graduating, I was introduced to the White Glove Externship Program, a two-week extensive hands-on training for New Grads. I will always appreciate White Glove for the clarity of the program, then the outstanding opportunity of working in a home environment that followed. I always say that once I started with homecare, I am stuck! I just fell in love with the job and cannot imagine myself doing anything else. The personal connection you form with the patient is fuel to keep you going. When I started out, I came from working with the adult population in the nursing facilities as a Certified Nursing Assistant. Naturally, I was looking for adult or geriatric homecare cases. One day, my devoted staffing coordinator, Brenna called. She is always amazing at assisting me and it is a pleasure to hear her sprite voice. She was like “Osafugbe, are you sure you wouldn’t try a pediatric case? I have something so close to your home and I think you’ll love it.”. I don’t know what in the world made me agree to try it for one night. Then I tried it for another night. By then, I felt like my heart was glued to the home, to the five-year-old who truly lightens up when I walk into her room.

So, yes. Here I am, working with pediatric homecare, and it does not look like I will be doing anything else anytime soon.

### **Do you have any advice for new nurses joining the [White Glove Externship Program](#)?**

Many new nurses come in thinking that nursing is mostly about the medication administration and other clinical nursing duties. Nursing involves a lot of caring for the patient, including personal care or using that extra human touch to ensure our patients are fully comfortable, always. It is also vital to learn how to manage any anxiety of unexpected occurrences on the job, so you do not get frozen in the situations where you are needed most.

Every homecare patient is a new job, which is why it is so important to ask questions. Equipment of one patient to another can be different from one to the other. The first thing I do when I arrive to a new home is to politely ask anything I do not know. From previous experiences, I realized that instead of throwing the families off, they are happy to see that you are careful, and you want to be comfortable with what you do, instead of tampering with equipment you are unsure about. When I go to a new home, I usually go at least an hour early to still get a report from the previous nurse on the shift for full accuracy. At the end of the day, nursing may not be easy, but it is clearly a most rewarding job!

### **What are some challenges you face as a nurse?**

When there is interruptions of teamwork or friction between colleagues, the work becomes difficult. Mostly I saw this when working in a facility. I always tried going above and beyond expectations to arrive early and assist others. But what managers and directors did not realize is that complimenting one person in the company of many others can bring to bumps in good relationships. I strongly urge nurses to work together because it makes our work so much easier.

### **What is a message you would like to impart to our great team of White Glove Community Nurses?**

When you go into a patient's home, we must realize that while we may want to have our space and just do what we have to do, we must respect the families. Families are also challenged by the lack of privacy when nurses are coming and going from their home all the time. I heard patients complain of nurses locking the door to the patients or other practices to avoid the parents on the shift. It is very important for us homecare nurse to adapt to the surroundings and to be flexible with the families and patients we are working with for everyone's satisfaction.

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