

TV Ad Star & Nurse Andrea Dalzell



- * Andrea was the first registered nurse in New York to also use a wheelchair. She was diagnosed with Transverse Myelitis at the age of 5 and began using a wheelchair full-time at the age of 12.
- * There are about 20 registered nurses who use wheelchairs in the whole country. While teaching was an option for Andrea right out of school, she was eager to dive into patient care.
- * She shares her educational journey and struggle for equal opportunity as a healthcare professional in the article titled "[Nurses on Wheels.](#)"
- * While relaying her considerable journey to earn her academic degree and nursing certification, Andrea explained the ongoing need for clear communication with her educators and evaluators who often doubted her ability.

"Nurse managers sometimes thought it was more of a hindrance to have someone in a wheelchair on the floor. I had to tell them, it's not just bedside care, it's teamwork. Don't judge me before you know what I can do."
- * Outside of being a nurse, Andrea is a strong disability advocate and she represented her home state as Ms. Wheelchair New York. Her determination and notoriety also led to tv ads for Gillette Venus razors and Apple Watch and showed the world her infectious smile and personality. On September 10th of this year, Andrea's story was highlighted on [Good Morning America](#) for her efforts to help where needed treating COVID-19 patients. Andrea was surprised on air when she was gifted 1 million dollars.