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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA PARTNERS WITH 21 NATIONAL NURSING ORGANIZATIONS TO COMMISSION A STUDY OF ADVANCED PRACTICE REGISTERED NURSES ADDRESSING SAFETY, EFFECTIVENESS, AND QUALITY CARE

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA) is collaborating with nearly two dozen national nursing organizations to commission the first comprehensive study of its kind in 20 years addressing the positive impact the 240,000 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) have on health care quality and patient outcomes.

“An Assessment of the Safety, Quality, and Effectiveness of Care Provided by Advanced Practice Nurses, is designed to provide current data about the safety and quality of care provided by advanced practice nurses such as Nurse Practitioners, Clinical Nurse Specialists, and others. The results may also be useful as regulatory changes could occur that would result in increased mobility, and the establishment of independent practice as the norm rather than the exception. This will support APRNs caring for patients in a safe environment to the full potential of their nursing knowledge and skill,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

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The research effort will culminate in an expansive final report which will summarize the latest data on APRNs as well as an article for publication in a peer-reviewed journal. This work is expected to be completed by January 2009.

Substantial challenges to educational expectations and certification requirements for APRNs, and the proliferation of nursing specializations have sparked debates on appropriate credentials, scope of practice, and state-by-state regulation of nursing scope of practice. To that end, the consensus model for APRN regulation focuses on the regulation and credentialing of nurses.

Researchers will examine research-based evidence connected to care provided by nurses in the four APRN roles - certified registered nurse anesthetist (CRNA), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), certified clinical nurse specialist (CNS), and certified nurse practitioner (CNP). Additionally, APRNs focus on at least one of six population foci: psych/mental health, women's health, adult-gerontology, pediatrics, neonatal, or family.

Though APRNs have been linked to improved access to health care services, enhanced patient safety, and cost-effective care, a contemporary systematic review is needed to gauge the overall impact these providers are having in today's health care system.

The American Nurses Association (ANA) has been an active participant in both the APRN Consensus Work Group and the subsequently formed Joint Dialogue Group. In addition to ANA, members of the Joint Dialogue Group are the: American Academy of Nurse Practitioners Certification Program, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists, American Association of Colleges of Nursing, American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American Organization of Nurse Executives, National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National Council of State Boards of Nursing APRN Advisory Committee, National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission and nursing compact administrators.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates serving 330,000 members of national nursing specialty organizations, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.