

American Nurses Association
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
Tel (301) 628-5000
Fax (301) 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 14, 2008

CONTACT:

Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Mary Stewart 301-628-5038
mary.stewart@ana.org

**THE AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION WORKS TOWARD A CONSENSUS
AGREEMENT ON A CORE SET OF NATIONAL PRIORITIES IN HEALTH CARE**
Improving Performance Measurement and Public Reporting in the United States

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the National Quality Forum (NQF), along with representatives of 26 other major national health care organizations will join forces on Monday, November 17, 2008, by publicly releasing its report, *Aligning Our Efforts To Transform America's Healthcare Goals* designed to set national priorities and goals to achieve a high-performing, health care system delivering quality care to all.

"The National Priorities Partnership represents something unique in health care – a diverse range of high-impact stakeholders working to align their efforts on a core set of high-leverage areas of improvement. It is important for all partnerships related to health care quality to include the perspective of registered nurses order to transform the health care system. Nursing is the largest component of the health care workforce and provides the greatest amount of direct patient care. This collective force will deliver fundamental and transformative improvements to America's health care system," said ANA Chief Executive Officer Linda J. Stierle, MSN, RN, NEA-BC.

The priorities and goals of the partnership were selected to address four major challenges in health care: eliminate harm, eradicate disparities, reduce disease burden, and remove waste. The Partners focused only on National Priorities and Goals that would, if implemented broadly, dramatically improve our nation's healthcare quality.

MORE

Working together the partners will:

- Engage patients and their families in managing health and making decisions about care
- Improve the health of the population
- Improve the safety and reliability of America’s healthcare system
- Ensure patients receive well-coordinated care across all providers, settings, and levels of care
- Guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with life-limiting illnesses
- Eliminate waste while ensuring the delivery of appropriate care

The Partnership’s core list of priorities will yield real dividends in the form of improved care, equity, safety, and efficiency over the next three to five years. The absence of national priorities and goals for performance improvement impedes the efforts of those involved in all facets of performance measurement, improvement, and reporting. A sizable amount of resources and energy are currently being invested in the development of performance measures by many organizations including accrediting bodies, professional societies and boards, government organizations, and others.

To date, NQF has endorsed approximately 400 performance measures and practices, and many more are in the “measure pipeline”, some in the early stages of development and others moving through the NQF endorsement process. In spite of all these activities, it is unclear whether attention and resources are being focused on “high leverage” areas—aspects of performance for which improvement will yield the greatest gains in terms of better health and healthcare. ANA recognizes that national priority-setting must be a collaborative process with other key stakeholders who engage in priority-setting efforts of their own. In response, the National Priorities Partnership was established to address these concerns.

For more information, please visit <http://nursingworld.org/HomepageCategory/NursingInsider/ANA-Works-Toward-a-Consensus-Agreement.aspx>.

###

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.