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**NEWS RELEASE**



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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**ANA Pledges to Help Patients Improve Care  
Through Use of Electronic Health Information**  
*Association Joins National Consumer eHealth Program Launch*

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA) pledged to educate consumers about the benefits of electronic health information, as part of a national campaign launched today to engage consumers in improving their own health through information technology.

ANA made a formal pledge to develop educational materials on health information technology for registered nurses to share with consumers, in support of the Consumer eHealth Program established by the Office of the National Coordinator for Health Information Technology (ONC), U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). The ANA initiative will help people understand the benefits of using their electronic health records to prevent illness and manage chronic conditions, and to track history of immunizations, clinical exams and hospitalizations.

Health information technology provides a platform for capturing and sharing standardized data, such as lab results, tests, treatment history, medication profiles and basic medical information.

“Health information technology can improve care by ensuring that care is based on evidence. It also allows health care professionals from different clinical settings and disciplines to communicate effectively about a patient’s care to avoid duplication of services and ensure nothing important is missed through a lost paper trail or failed memory,” said ANA President Karen Daley, PhD, MPH, RN, FAAN. “This unique platform for compiling and analyzing data also supports one of the strongest tenets of nursing — educating the health care consumer.”

**MORE . . .**

## **ANA Promotes Consumer Use of Health Information Technology/ Page 2 . .**

ANA will ask nurses to submit examples of innovative use of health information technology in their practices, including methods they employ to engage patients in the use of that technology to improve their health, such as patient portals. ANA intends to share such models with ONC to demonstrate nursing's effectiveness in developing consumer-oriented health information technology strategies.

ANA has long recognized the importance of using standardized data and information technology to improve the quality of care. ANA began promoting the broad use of health information technology in the 1990s, designating nursing informatics as a nursing specialty and publishing the first scope and standards of practice documents for that specialty. Nursing informatics integrates nursing science, computer science and information science to manage and communicate data, information, knowledge and wisdom in nursing practice.

In 1998, ANA established the National Database for Nursing Quality Indicators<sup>®</sup> (NDNQI<sup>®</sup>), the nation's only comprehensive database allowing hospitals to compare nursing performance measures at the unit level. For example, a hospital can compare its rate of hospital-acquired pressure ulcers in intensive care units to similar units at other NDNQI-participating hospitals in the region, state or nation, providing a benchmark for performance and quality of care.

ANA values its relationship and partnership with health care consumers and their families and is well-positioned to create opportunities that will further engage consumers in improving their own health through information technology.

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*The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent and state nurses associations and its organizational affiliates. 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.*