ANA and the Rheumatology Nurses Society Co-publish First Standards for Newly Recognized Nursing Specialty

SILVER SPRING, MD – Last fall, the American Nurses Association Board of Directors recognized rheumatology nursing as a nursing specialty and approved the rheumatology nursing scope of practice statement thereby acknowledging the rheumatology nursing standards of practice for a five year period. This resulted in the release of the new Rheumatology Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice published in collaboration with the Rheumatology Nurses Society.

Rheumatology nurses are an integral member of the healthcare team who treat patients with rheumatic diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, juvenile idiopathic arthritis, vasculitis, the spondyloarthropathies, systemic lupus, and other autoimmune diseases. Their specialized knowledge and skills help both patients and rheumatologists to create an interlocking network of patients and medical professionals. As such, rheumatology nurses manage healthcare teams that integrate patient care and patient education with professional expertise and research.

Victoria Ruffing, RN, CCRP, Co-founder and President of Rheumatology Nursing Society said “This achievement advances and validates the role of the professional rheumatology nurse. Moreover, this accomplishment substantiates the nurse as an integral part of the health care team in the treatment and care of individuals with rheumatic diseases. She added “On behalf of the RNS Board of Directors I wish to thank our volunteer committee for their work and dedication that made this possible. This is an outstanding achievement for the Rheumatology Nurses Society.”

ANA’s new guide to contemporary rheumatology nursing practice contains up-to-date information for registered nurses (RN) and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) practicing in this nursing specialty and defines the level of nursing practice and professional performance for rheumatology nurses at all practice levels and in all settings. This is a must have resource for new nurses entering the specialty as well as a vital reference for all RNs and APRNs practicing in rheumatology.
About the Rheumatology Nurses Society

Rheumatology Nurses Society (RNSnetwork.org) is the professional nursing organization representing nurses who are engaged in clinical practice, education and research for the care of patients with rheumatic diseases.

About ANA’s Specialty Nursing Standards

ANA represents the interests of the nation’s 3.1 million RNs. Since the late 1990s, ANA has partnered with other nursing organizations to establish a formal process for recognition of specialty areas of nursing practice. This includes the criteria for approving the specialty itself and the scope statement and an acknowledgment by ANA of the standards of practice for that specialty. ANA’s approval of specialty nursing scope statements and its acknowledgment of specialty standards of practice are valid for five years, starting from the publication date of the documents. Learn more at www.nursingworld.org.

Press copies are available upon request by sending an email to francine.bennett@ana.org. Please include name of publication, organization, reviewer name, and address information including phone and email address.

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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. 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.