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ANA releases new edition of  
Public Health Nursing: Scope & Standards of Practice

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association has released a new second edition of the specialty standards for public health nurses. This concise guide to contemporary public health nursing (PHN) practice contains up-to-date information for RNs practicing in public health and defines the level of nursing practice and professional performance for public health nurses at all practice levels and in all settings.

Health care in the U.S. is in the throes of shifting its emphasis from an illness care system to one focused on health promotion and disease prevention. The convergence of multiple economic, political, and social factors including Healthy People 2020, the Obama Administration’s National Prevention Strategy, and the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) provide a “road map” for improving the health of the public. Public health nurses should be in the forefront of health care to lead change in all sectors from public to private and local to global.

“This is an opportune time for public health nurses to become active, visible partners in healthcare reform. Every community across the nation deserves a public health nurse to lead in developing policies and programs that will improve health conditions for all and to advocate for poor and vulnerable populations,” said Co-chair Pamela A. Kulbok, DNSc, RN, PHCNS-BC, FAAN of the Theresa A. Thomas Professor of Primary Care Nursing and Chair of the Department of Family, Community, and Mental Health Systems at the University of Virginia. She added, “This revised edition looks to the future of public health nursing and provides essential guidance in the form of standards and competencies for generalist and the advanced public health nurse.”

This is a must-have title for public health nursing practitioners, educators, students, researchers and others directly involved in public health. Employers, insurers, lawyers, regulators, policy makers and stakeholders will find value in referencing this publication.

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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. Because of the significant changes in the evolving nursing and healthcare environments, ANA’s approval of specialty nursing scope statements and its acknowledgment of specialty standards of practice remain valid for five years, starting from the publication date of the documents. Learn more at www.nursingworld.org.

Press and educator review copies are available upon request by contacting Francine Bennett at 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.