

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEW

February 2010

WNA NEWS

The workforce survey being done along with our license renewal is an effort to gain a clearer picture of the current and future labor market in the nursing profession. The survey is designed to produce detailed and accurate information about the current supply, demand, location, and skill level of Wisconsin's nursing workforce. The information collected through this survey can be used by public policymakers, educational programs, nursing organizations, and health care organizations to develop strategies to assure a sufficient, diverse and highly skilled nursing workforce in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Nursing Coalition

WNC held its annual retreat on January 28th. Discussion revolved around identifying and discussing the current national and state strategies and activities related to the collection and reporting of nursing sensitive quality indicators. The group also discussed ways to develop a strategy for engagement and or response to the current initiatives.

Norma Lang RN PhD spoke to the group about recognizing the importance of nursing sensitive indicators. She explained that meaningful information system could contribute to decision support, collection, analysis, use and reporting of essential nursing data. A well developed electronic record system would incorporate the variation in the quality of nursing care across countries, clinical settings and populations.

Dr. Lang explained six priorities that were identified by National Priorities Partnership, a collaborative effort of 32 major national organizations that collectively influence every part of the healthcare system. The Partners aim to transform the healthcare system from the inside out. The new upcoming priorities are:

1. Ensure patients receive well coordinated care across all providers, setting and levels of care
2. Improve the health of the population
3. Improve the safety and reliability of America's health care system
4. Engage patients and families in managing health and making decisions about care
5. Guarantee appropriate and compassionate care for patients with life –limiting illnesses.
6. Eliminate waste while ensuring the delivery of appropriate care.

Dr. Lang's asked the group how we can link quality measures and health information technology. Can the same data elements be used in documentation, decision support and reports? She emphasized that electronic health records will need to be meaningful. Ideally the electronic system could be used for documentation of nursing care based upon evidence, standardized terminology, used for quality improvement, pay for performance and public reporting.

Several other representatives from quality control organizations presented information and resources available to the public for evaluating healthcare. Take the time to browse the following organizations that collect healthcare data. Some examples are:

- The National Quality Forum (NQF) is one of the many organizations working to improve the quality of healthcare in the U.S. The quality of the healthcare that Americans receive varies greatly across social, economic, and geographic boundaries.
http://www.qualityforum.org/Setting_Priorities/Improving_Healthcare_Quality.aspx
- The National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators (NDNQI®), a repository for nursing-sensitive indicators. NDNQI® is the only database containing data collected at the nursing unit level. New nursing-sensitive indicators are added to the database; new projects are initiated; and new facilities join regularly. The guiding forces behind NDNQI® are constantly trying to determine how this program can be enhanced to better serve the participating facilities and the nursing profession better, therefore, the dynamic nature of the project.
<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/ThePracticeofProfessionalNursing/PatientSafetyQuality/Research-Measurement/The-National-Database.aspx>
- WHA Information Center is dedicated to collecting and disseminating complete, accurate and timely data about charges and services provided by Wisconsin hospitals and ambulatory surgery centers. <http://wipricepoint.org/>
- The Joint Commission http://www.jointcommission.org/AboutUs/Fact_Sheets/
- The US Department of Health & Human Services is committed to providing the public an inventory of the measures that currently being used by the Divisions in the HHS for quality measurement, improvement and reporting. <http://www.ahrq.gov/>

Submitted by Marlene Nahavandi RN BSN CAPA