

GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS NEWS

Spring 2010

WNA NEWS

National Nurses Week is celebrated May 6-12. ANA salutes all nurses with the theme “Nurses: Caring Today For A Healthier Tomorrow”.

Some of the legislation that WNA has interest in and that is moving through the Legislature is as follows:

AB 744 WNA opposes this bill Certification of surgical technologists. WNA opposes this bill because it allows for institutional licensure of a health care provider. WNA opposes institutional licensure and believes that certification is a function of licensure.

SB 16 & AB 57 WNA supports this bill that allows a mother to breast-feed in any public or private location where she is otherwise authorized to be. WNA supports this legislation because of the evidence indicating that breast-feeding is the healthiest means of providing nutrition to infants.

SB 271 & AB 405 WNA supports Prohibiting the manufacture and sale at wholesale of certain baby bottles and cups for children that contain bisphenol A, creating labeling requirements, making an appropriation, and providing penalties. WNA supports this legislation because it prohibits the sale of infant bottles and sippy cups.

SB 362 & AB 512. WNA supports the bill that expands health insurance coverage of nervous and mental disorders, alcoholism, and other drug abuse problems. WNA supports this legislation because it requires insurance coverage of for treatment of mental health conditions at the same level as other medical conditions.

SB 414 & AB 616 WNA supports the bill School nurses and the administration of drugs to pupils. WNA supports this legislation because of the patient safety aspects and codifies the practice of school nursing of that being a BSN.

To view all legislation of interest to WNA go the the WNA home page.

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