American Nurses Association

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ANA PROTECTS THE PUBLIC THROUGH FORMAL RECOGNITON OF SPECIALTY NURSING PRACTICE

SILVER SPRING, MD – Today the American Nurses Association (ANA) Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics (CNPE) continues its designated oversight responsibility for developing and maintaining the scope and standards of nursing practice and recognizing areas of practice as nursing specialties. This formal recognition program reaffirms ANA's leadership role in protecting the public by addressing the assurance of quality in the clinical, administrative, education, and research domains of nursing practice.

"The rapidly changing healthcare environment's demands, including the call for certification of nurses for specialty practice, created the need to develop consistent, standardized processes for recognizing specialty areas of nursing practice, approving specialty nursing scope of practice statements, and acknowledging specialty nursing standards of practice," remarked ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

During the late 1990s the ANA convened representatives from various specialty nursing groups to address the need for consistency in standards of practice and to identify a formal mechanism to confirm professional recognition of specialty practice based on 14 designated criteria for specialty recognition. This resulted in the ANA Congress on Nursing Practice and Economics becoming the neutral reviewing body of specialty nursing scope of practice statements and standards of practice.

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In recent years several nursing specialties have completed the rigorous multi-level ANA review process and received formal recognition: plastic surgery nursing and vascular nursing in 2004, nephrology nursing in 2005, and legal nurse consulting, HIV/AIDS nursing, and holistic nursing in 2006. As nursing and the healthcare environment evolve, ANA expects other specialties will emerge and seek formal professional recognition.

The American Nurses Association continues to advance the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by informing regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses through its 54 constituent member nurses associations. 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.

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