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NEWS RELEASE



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**ANA TESTIFIES BEFORE THE *INSTITUTE OF MEDICINE* ON NURSING'S
PRIORITIES FOR HEALTH CARE RESEARCH SPENDING**

SILVER SPRING, MD – As part of its long-standing commitment to enacting meaningful healthcare reform, the American Nurses Association (ANA) testified March 20 before the independent Institute of Medicine (IOM), identifying how the work of nurses can be included in studies aimed at improving patients' health and determining outcomes from nursing interventions.

“How we keep people healthy is as important as how we treat their diseases,” said ANA’s Chief Programs Officer Mary Jean Schumann, MSN, MBA, RN, CPNP. “Comparative effectiveness research must address the maintenance of health in addition to treatment of disease.”

IOM invited ANA, along with the American Medical Association, American Academy of Family Physicians and other groups to provide recommendations on how to spend \$400 million allocated in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (the Stimulus Bill) toward comparative effectiveness research (CER), which evaluates how different treatment therapies for a certain health condition compare to each other. The Stimulus Bill requires the IOM to submit a report to Congress and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services by June 30, 2009, that provides recommendations for spending the comparative effectiveness research funds.

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ANA emphasized that nursing's perspective in evaluating how to improve care and decrease costs comes from its constant vigilance and engagement in the healthcare system, regardless of setting, population or specialty.

Among the recommendations ANA offered to the IOM Committee on Comparative Effectiveness Research Priorities were:

- Incorporate the nursing performance measures tracked by ANA's National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators® (NDNQI®), such as patient falls and hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, into the CER agenda.
- Base research priorities on the six priorities and goals identified by the National Priorities Partnership, a group of national organizations, including ANA, working toward health care system change. The Partnership, established by the National Quality Forum, supports goals such as engaging patients in managing their health, coordinating care, improving safety and eliminating overuse of care.
- Study the systems and delivery models that incorporate registered nurses, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and other professions to determine the best provider mix and most effective collaboration models to provide the best care outcomes.

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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 51 constituent member nurses associations, its 23 organizational affiliates, and its workforce advocacy affiliate, the Center for American Nurses. 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.