

American Nurses Association
8515 Georgia Avenue, Suite 400
Silver Spring, Maryland 20910-3492
Tel (301) 628-5000
Fax (301) 628-5001
www.NursingWorld.org

NEWS RELEASE



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CONTACT: Mary McNamara, 301-628-5198
mary.mcnamara@ana.org
Adam Sachs, 301-628-5034
adam.sachs@ana.org
www.nursingworld.org

NURSES SHOULD LEAD CARE MODELS FOR ACCOUNTABLE CARE ORGANIZATIONS

SILVER SPRING, MD - The American Nurses Association (ANA) stressed the importance of nurse-led care models in recent comments to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS). ANA responded to a CMS request regarding the formation of Accountable Care Organizations (ACOs).

In submitted remarks, ANA urged CMS to recognize the integral contributions of registered nurses (RNs) to patient care coordination. "Care coordination is an essential part of all RN practice, and one of the standards of professional practice for nurses." ANA stressed that equitable representation of physicians, nurses, and other health professionals in ACO leadership structures will help to develop and nurture patient-centered care. ANA made additional comments on the need for daily collection of nurse-sensitive quality measures such as: pressure ulcers, falls, medication errors, and emergent care. "Nurse-sensitive quality indicators should be included across the care continuum capturing structural, process, and outcome measures which contribute to achieving patient-centered health outcomes."

ANA sees the development of ACOs as a new frontier in creating an engaging patient-centered quality delivery system. To view ANA's complete comments, please visit, <http://www.nursingworld.org/AccountableCareOrganizations.aspx>

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The ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.1 million registered nurses through its constituent member nurses associations, its 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.