ANA Convenes Nursing Quality Experts to Explore Performance Improvements

Data Use Conference Features Nation’s Richest Nursing Quality Database

SILVER SPRING, MD – More than 900 chief nursing officers, health care quality improvement experts, staff nurses and other hospital leaders will convene in New Orleans January 20-22 to discover new strategies for improving patient outcomes at an American Nurses Association (ANA) conference on nursing quality.

The 4th Annual National Database for Nursing Quality Indicators® (NDNQI®) Data Use Conference will be attended by many of the more than 1,500 hospitals nationwide that participate in the database program – the nation’s richest database of nursing-specific quality performance measures. About 1 in 4 hospitals nationwide participate in the NDNQI data reporting and analysis program that allows hospitals to compare the performance of individual nursing units to others regionally, statewide and nationwide, and use evidence from the reports to make strategic improvements in nursing care, patient outcomes and patient safety. NDNQI is a program of ANA’s National Center for Nursing Quality® (NCNQ®).

The NDNQI program enables hospitals to collect data on patient falls, hospital-acquired pressure ulcers, infections acquired as a result of hospitalization, and other factors that indicate the quality of nursing care. In any given quarter, more than 12,000 nursing units are reporting data. The NDNQI data also can be used to determine links between patient outcomes and nurse staffing levels and characteristics, and to measure nurse job satisfaction and opinions on the practice environment through surveys.

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“In my travels, some registered nurses tell me how they need nursing care outcomes data to perform their job well. Other RNs who work at hospitals that participate in NDNQI describe how the program is helping their nursing unit perform on the cutting edge of health care,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR. “The great advantage of this conference is that it brings together many high-performing nursing units to share strategies and practices that have been proven to work through the NDNQI data. These hospitals are able to use the NDNQI data to define and pursue excellence in nursing care.”

The NDNQI Conference features as the keynote speaker the top appointed nurse official in the Obama Administration – Mary Wakefield, administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA).

Other speakers include Nancy Dunton, University of Kansas School of Nursing professor and principal investigator for NDNQI since its 1998 inception, who will reveal evidence of improvement on several nursing quality indicators among participating hospitals; Johns Hopkins University health economist Kevin Frick, who will advise hospitals how to use cost effectiveness research to improve their operations; and Lilee Gelinas, vice president and chief nursing officer for a network of community-owned health care systems, who will recommend methods to improve hospital quality when money is tight.

Outstanding nursing quality awards will be presented to hospitals in six categories.

For more information on the NDNQI program, please visit: www.ncnq.org.

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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 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.