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**NEWS RELEASE**



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**AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION TAKES PART IN  
NATIONAL HEALTHCARE DECISIONS DAY**

**SILVER SPRING, MD** – The American Nurses Association (ANA), the largest nursing organization in the U.S., along with other national, state and community organizations, is working to ensure that registered nurses and the public they serve document in written and in verbal form their desired healthcare decisions. This nationwide partnership effort has culminated in the formal designation of April 16, 2010 as National Healthcare Decisions Day (NHDD).

As a participating organization, ANA is encouraging its members and the public to take advantage of a plethora of information and tools designed to demonstrate the importance of sharing their healthcare wishes with family, friends and healthcare providers, and execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and living will).

“Advance care planning is something that we in the nursing community wholeheartedly endorse,” stated ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, RN, MSN, CNOR, “and I cannot think of a better way to educate patients on the benefits of this judicious practice than by leading the way ourselves. By taking the time to consider our own wishes with regard to potential healthcare directives, we will be better equipped to answer questions and assist patients in completing their own advance directives. I urge nurses

everywhere to have an open, honest dialogue with their patients, to encourage them to express their wishes regarding future healthcare matters. ”

Please visit [www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org](http://www.nationalhealthcaredecisionsday.org) for information and tools on how to start the conversation and how to execute written advance directives (healthcare power of attorney and a living will) in accordance with state laws.

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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.*

