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NEWS RELEASE



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 20, 2012

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Nursing Quality Conference Convenes Leaders to Focus on Patient Outcomes *NDNQI® Study Linking Infection Rates to Nursing Care Hours to be Presented*

SILVER SPRING, MD – Hospital-acquired infections are the fifth-leading cause of death in the United States and cost an estimated \$28 billion annually, yet they are largely preventable. That's where the American Nurses Association's (ANA) National Database for Nursing Quality Indicators® (NDNQI®) can make a life-or-death difference and significantly reduce cost through evidence-based practices.

[NDNQI](#), the nation's most comprehensive database of nursing performance measures, links patient outcomes to the quality of nursing services and nurse staffing characteristics, such as education levels. Quality experts use the evidence to implement new processes of care and nurse staffing arrangements to improve patient safety and achieve better outcomes.

More than 1,100 nursing and hospital leaders from across the country and overseas will gather Jan. 25-27 in Las Vegas to share strategies on achieving and sustaining improvements in the quality of America's health care at the ANA Nursing Quality Conference.™

There, attendees will learn about a recent study by NDNQI researchers that shows a strong correlation between nurse staffing patterns and hospital-acquired infections in adult critical care units. According to NDNQI data, higher levels of registered nurses' hours worked per patient were associated with lower rates of blood stream and urinary tract infections. Also, units with higher percentages of RNs with national specialty certifications, such as critical care or cardiac surgical, had lower infection rates.

More than 1,800 hospitals, about one-third of the nation's hospitals, participate in NDNQI, a program of ANA's [National Center for Nursing Quality®](#). The program collects data quarterly at the hospital unit-level on such indicators as patient falls, pressure ulcers and infections, which are linked to the quality of nursing services. NDNQI allows hospitals to **MORE. . .**

compare the performance of their nursing units to others locally, statewide and nationwide, and set benchmarks.

NDNQI has been expanding internationally, with 17 hospitals from Europe, Australia, Asia and other continents now participating. About two dozen representatives from foreign hospitals will attend the conference, many of whom will tour several Nevada hospitals that use NDNQI to improve their performance.

The [NDNQI Award for Outstanding Nursing Quality®](#) will be presented Jan. 26 to six hospitals that achieved overall excellence in nursing quality, based on data they report to NDNQI. See how one of the 2010 award winners, [Medical Center of the Rockies](#) in Loveland, Colorado, improved its urinary tract infection rate using NDNQI data.

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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 and its organizational affiliates. 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.