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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA RECEIVES AWARD FOR SAFE PATIENT HANDLING EDUCATION

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association is proud to be one of two recipients selected to receive the 2008 National Occupational Research Agenda (NORA) Partnering Award for the Safe Patient Handling and Movement Training Program for Schools of Nursing project.

“Creating and maintaining a healthy work environment is a top concern of registered nurses and is vital to the recruitment and retention of nurses. ANA is pleased to have its efforts on behalf of nurses and nurse education recognized, and is grateful to all who partnered on this important project. ANA hopes that safe patient handling concepts will be taught in all schools of nursing and safe patient handling programs will be made available in the workplace so nurses can be free from the devastating impact of musculoskeletal disorder injuries due to manual patient handling,” said ANA President Rebecca M. Patton, MSN, RN, CNOR.

ANA partnered with the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) and the Tampa Veterans Administration Patient Safety Center of Inquiry on this important project. The effort is designed to develop and evaluate a new evidence-based curriculum module for schools of nursing introducing safe patient handling and movement concepts into fundamentals of nursing. The curriculum module changed the focus of patient handling education away from the outdated body mechanics to equipment utilization for safe patient handling programs. The use of

MORE . . .

Safe Patient Handling Education/ Page 2 . . .

assistive devices and equipment had been shown to protect nurses by reducing injuries due to manual patient handling while improving the quality of care. This change also was being introduced to eliminate the widespread problem of musculoskeletal disorder injuries occurring in students as well as nurses practicing in their profession

ANA assisted in recruiting nursing schools for participation in the project; in addition to working with the nursing students, the schools selected to participate were required to work with local institutions and ANA constituent member associations to disseminate results. In addition to the schools, six safe patient handling equipment manufacturers loaned equipment to the schools to utilize during the project.

To learn more about ANA's efforts to create a healthier work environment, and its Handle With Care® campaign, please visit

<http://www.nursingworld.org/MainMenuCategories/OccupationalandEnvironmental/occupationalhealth/handlewithcare.aspx>.

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ANA is the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's 2.9 million Registered Nurses through its 54 constituent member associations. ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the economic and general welfare 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.