



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CLINICAL NURSE SPECIALISTS

Practice & Policy Newsletter

Message from the NACNS President

March/April 2009

President Barack Obama has stepped to the plate to deal with key issues of importance to the American public. He is working with Congress to stabilize the economy, making plans to decrease our military presence in Iraq and of most importance to nursing, beginning to grapple with health care reform. This is a tremendous opportunity for all of us. This is the season for all of us to hone our advocacy skills and work to support issues that will promote excellent health care for all Americans, and fully utilize nurses, especially clinical nurse specialists in the delivery of health care.

Melanie Duffy, MSN, RN
President

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NACNS CNS Toolkit Now Available from Springer Publishing Co.

This toolkit is a concise and handy reference guide designed for those new graduates and novice Clinical Nurse Specialists (CNS) just getting started in this exciting career. Containing all the essential information a new CNS needs to know, this tool-kit serves as a one-stop, all-inclusive guide for the CNS.

NACNS Offers Public Comment Period Now for Proposed Clinical Nurse Specialist Entry-Level Practice Doctoral Competencies

NACNS is seeking public comment on the proposed clinical nurse specialist (entry-level) practice doctorate competencies. The competencies have been developed to guide practice and education for CNSs prepared at the practice doctoral level.

Please go to www.nacns.org to complete the survey by **April 20, 2009**.

These CNS practice doctorate competencies (CNSs) expand upon those described in the NACNS Statement on Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice and Education (2004) and other

published CNS competency statements. The proposed CNS practice doctoral competencies were initially developed by members of NACNS and representatives of nursing specialty organizations. They were subsequently revised to incorporate comments and suggestions from a broad-based review panel consisting of individuals with expertise in the education of CNSs; the delivery of CNS care; credentialing of CNSs; accreditation of graduate nursing education programs; employment of CNSs; and past presidents of NACNS. For this final phase, NACNS is soliciting review and comments from public stakeholders.

NACNS Board Determines Next Steps on OMB SOC Decision

The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) published their decision on the rulemaking: “Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) – Policy Committee’s Recommendations for 2010 SOC.” This will establish the standard occupational classification categories that the Department of Labor (DOL) plans to use to collect information on professionals from different fields. In this rulemaking, the nurse category is expanded from just “RN” to “advanced practice nurses” but included only nurse practitioners, certified nurse midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists. Clinical nurse specialists were not included in this rulemaking as advanced practice nurses. NACNS activated a substantial grassroots response to the proposed rulemaking.

The NACNS Board is disappointed by the decision of OMB to not include CNS’ as one of the advanced practice nurses. NACNS has been working on this issue since 2003. In response to the recent ruling, NACNS is filing a Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for disclosure of the evidence, data, background that served as the basis for the decision. NACNS is also working with ANA to consider the next steps to advocate for the inclusion of the CNS in the definition of ‘advanced practice nurse’. NACNS is calling for CNSs to provide clear, precise descriptions of how this ruling may or will directly impact their practice.

NACNS Establishes the first week of September as National CNS Recognition Week

One exciting highlight of the March 2009 NACNS conference was the announcement of National CNS Recognition Week. The NACNS Board established this important event to coincide with the Sept. 1, 2009 100th birthday of Hildegard Peplau, who established the first CNS program at Rutgers University in 1954. Watch for more information in future editions of the newsletter.

Clinical Nurse Specialists Needed for ANCC Standard Setting Study

The American Nurses Credentialing Center is seeking 10 Clinical Nurse Specialists to serve on a panel to determine the recommended passing score for the newly-developed ANCC CNS Core certification examination. The panel is scheduled to meet at the ANA/ANCC headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland for a two-day meeting, **June 22-23, 2009**. Please go to the NACNS website to learn more about the criteria for this volunteer opportunity.

Please note that standard setting panel members will not be eligible to take the ANCC CNS Core certification examination for a two-year period after the study. Because the panelists will be familiar with the exam items, they will not be able to apply to take the ANCC CNS Core examination until June 2011.

If you are interested in serving as a standard setting panelist, please contact Nancy Bené by telephone (301-628-5303) or e-mail (nancy.bene@ana.org) for application instructions.

ANA Publishes Second Monograph on National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators Program® (NDNQI®)

This second of a biannual series of publications again examines the experience of hospitals participating in the National Database of Nursing Quality Indicators® (NDNQI®) in achieving sustained improvement in quality of care. This volume emphasizes achieving improvement in the nursing work environment. Edited by the same

expert team who created the initial 2007 volume (Transforming Nursing Data into Quality Care: Profiles of Quality Improvement in U.S. Healthcare Facilities), this new book will help readers to understand the keys to success for improving the quality of both nursing care and the work environment. This publication can be purchased through the American Nurses Association, Price: List \$39.95/ANA Member \$31.95.

Newly Published Resource - Outcome Assessment in Advanced Nursing Practice

Outcome Assessment in Advanced Nursing Practice, Second Edition by Ruth M. Kleinpell, PhD, RN, CCRN, Editor is available from Springer Publishing Company. NACNS members will receive a 20% discount that applies to any book or journal that is purchased from the Springer Publishing Company website. In order to receive this discount, use code NACNS2 when checking out your purchases. Check out some interesting titles at:
http://www.springerpub.com/cat.aspx?cat_id=1001

Hill & Agency News

Mary Wakefield PhD, RH, MSN Appointed HRSA Administrator

March 10, 2009, Mary Wakefield, PhD, RN, FAAN started her new position as President Obama's selection to be the next Administrator of the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA). Dr. Wakefield is one of the nation's leading experts on rural health and workforce issues, and is uniquely qualified to handle the many important and timely issues that face HRSA. Mary Wakefield, most recently directed the Center for Rural Health at the University of North Dakota, and will oversee health profession funding, and health care delivery through community health centers across the nation. She will help implement the economic stimulus bill, as the agency will administer \$2.5 billion to invest in health care infrastructure and train health care professionals.

Dr. Wakefield is a leading expert in rural health, patient safety, Medicare payment policy, workforce issues and public policy, according to the White House. She previously served as director of the Center for Health Policy, Research and Ethics at George Mason University in Northern Virginia and has been chief of staff to two Democratic senators from Nebraska.

ANSR Alliance Hosts Hill Briefing on Need for Nurse Faculty and Funding for Nursing

The ANSR Alliance, a coalition developed to advocate for nursing funding on Capitol Hill, held a Hill briefing on March 24, 2009. NACNS has been a member of this coalition since its start. This briefing presented speakers that represented practice and education to discuss the issues with limited federal funding for nursing and the need for more faculty to increase the number of graduating nurses. A second career nursing student discussed the issues he faced in working and going to school. This briefing was well-attended and provided a strong voice for nursing.

Division of Nursing Announces the Fiscal Year 2009 Funding Opportunities.

The Division of Nursing is pleased to announce the fiscal year 2009 funding opportunities for the following programs:

- 2009 Advanced Education Nursing Program
The program announcement number is HRSA-09-101 - contact Dr. Irene Sandvold at 301-443-6333 if you have program questions.
- 2009 Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship Program
The program announcement number is HRSA-09-102 - contact Ms. Karen Breeden at 301-443-5787 if you have program questions.

In order to obtain more information access the HRSA Funding Opportunities Web site at: www.hrsa.gov/grants/default.htm for additional information and application instructions.

President Obama Signs Omnibus Spending Bill

On March 11, 2009, President Obama signed the \$410 billion FY09 omnibus spending bill today. President Obama expressed his concern that this legislation contained nearly 8,000 earmarks consisting of about \$5.5 billion in spending. The bill includes \$171.03 million in funding for Title VIII nursing funding programs. This is a 9.6 % increase over fiscal year 2008 funding levels. These funds are distributed to a number of programs that fund nursing education and special projects.

Health Care Reform Next on the Agenda

Senator Max Baucus (D-MT) has announced his intention to push for a bipartisan, fully paid health reform bill by midsummer. While acknowledging that this is “ambitious” Senator Baucus notes that the he, the Congress and the Administration are committed to moving forward. This is will be no small effort. The U.S. health care system is complex and the structure has been built over a length of time with the result being a complex network of payment structures, quality measures and delivery system structures. Sen. Baucus hopes to produce a bill that both parties can support. Sen. Baucus’ staff is meeting with Sen. Kennedy (D-Mass) and Sen. Grassley (R-IA) in order to discuss this reform effort.

Obama Approves Largest Increase in Tobacco Tax

President Obama elected to side step one of his campaign promises when he signed the largest increases ever in tobacco taxes. He had promised not to increase taxes on families earning under \$250,000 or individuals under \$200,000. But since tobacco taxes disproportionately affects the poor, who are more likely to be smokers, President Obama is seen as breaking a campaign promise.

Tobacco taxes will now be raised to nearly 62 cents on an average pack of cigarettes. The extra money will be used to finance a major expansion of health insurance for children. That represents a step toward achieving another campaign promise, to make sure all children are covered.

Members of the White House argue that President Obama’s campaign promises left the possibility for actions such as this in order to fund initiatives such as children’s health insurance.

Wonderful Websites

This new feature of the NACNS newsletter has been developed in order to feature excellent websites for your practice.

Health Care Without Harm <http://www.noharm.org/us>

Health Care Without Harm is an international coalition of hospitals and health care systems, medical professionals, community groups, health-affected constituencies, labor unions, environmental and environmental health organizations and religious groups. Its mission is to transform the health care sector worldwide, without compromising patient safety or care, so that it is ecologically sustainable and no longer a source of harm to public health and the environment.

U. S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Administration <http://www.osha.gov/Publications/OSHA3148/osha3148.html>

This website has many resources. This particular link is to publication Guidelines for Preventing Workplace Violence for Health Care & Social Service Workers.

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