



**'Planning a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance'
Outreach to the Nursing Community: At A Glance**

Background

The 'Planning a National Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance' project will primarily be informed by representatives of each of eight different nursing convener organizations. These convener organizations, along with representatives from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, The George Washington University's Department of Nursing Education, and the nursing representative to the Quality Alliance Steering Committee (QASC) will begin to explore a future roadmap for strengthening nursing's policy 'voice.'

In recognition of the diversity of the nursing community and the constituencies that are represented by the dozens of formal nursing organizations, efforts have been made and will be ongoing, to solicit feedback from and participation by the broader nursing community. To engage the broader nursing community, share project progress, and gather additional inputs, the following formal and informal activities have been pursued:

1. A press release (attachment 1) announcing the project and inviting coverage of the project was handled by GW Medical Center's Office of Communications. The release was sent to 50 contacts in nursing/trade publications, posted to GW's web site, and sent to the University's publications.
2. A number of nursing publications have/will be running stories on the project:
 - o The *American Journal of Nursing* (AJN) published a short news story on the project in their November 2008 issue (page 21).
 - o A letter to the editor focused on the project has been accepted for publication in *Policy, Politics & Nursing Practice*. It is expected to run in the February 2009 issue.
 - o An editorial on the project is being run in the February 2009 issue of the *Journal of Nursing Administration* (JONA).
3. An inventory of national nursing organizations was conducted. Nearly 70 organizations (attachment 2) with contact names, telephone numbers, and email addresses was generated. This list has been the basis for an email blast sharing information about the project and inviting participation as a 'reactor.' Subsequently:
 - o A number of organizations (n=12) requested access to the meeting as 'reactors';
 - o Project staff confirmed eligibility for 11 of the 12 seeking participation;
 - o Attendance has been confirmed for 11.¹
4. A web page hosted by GW's Department of Nursing Education provides project information and related information

¹ A separate item, Item D, lists each reactor who will be attending the January 26, 2009 meeting.

((<http://www.gwumc.edu/healthsci/departments/nursing/research.cfm>). These materials will be updated and additions posted as the project progresses.

Next Steps

Ongoing efforts will be made to engage and inform the broader nursing community about the project, its deliverables, and outcomes.

Attachment 1: Press Release

T H E G E O R G E
W A S H I N G T O N
U N I V E R S I T Y
M E D I C A L C E N T E R
W A S H I N G T O N D C

News Release

November 18, 2008

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GW Nursing Receives Grant to Explore Strengthening Nursing's Policy Voice

WASHINGTON — The Department of Nursing Education at The George Washington University has received a grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation to explore the feasibility of and interest in establishing the Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance (NQSA). The Alliance would consist of key nursing organizations dedicated to strengthening nursing's influence on national policy directions that impact patient quality and safety.

Nurses represent the single largest health profession in the United States. Nearly three million registered nurses (RNs) currently hold licenses to practice. Despite the size of the workforce and their proximity to patient care, national policies aimed at improving quality and reducing cost do not typically account for the needs or contributions of nurses. Without input from nurses, who have an explicit knowledge of patient needs and an established intimate relationship with their patients, policies directed at improving health care safety and patient outcomes cannot be fully addressed. Nurses have a unique and critically important perspective that will help drive change and improve health care in the United States.

Under the leadership of Ellen Kurtzman, MPH, RN, assistant research professor, Department of Nursing Education, and principal investigator on the project, GW will become the home base for gauging interest in and working to create a unified policy voice for nurses. Kurtzman and her team will explore possible functions, roles, priorities and organizing structures for the NQSA; create models for short- and long-term operations and sustainability; determine feasibility for launching the NQSA; and identify "next steps" for the group.

"I am pleased to be part of this exciting project and eager to explore the potential of the NQSA with my nursing colleagues. As the nation turns its attention to important domestic issues, including health care reform, I believe that the solutions lie, at least in part, in our nation's nurses. A unified and coordinated nursing policy voice will benefit patients and the health care system which we serve," said Kurtzman.

Leaders from among the national nursing organizations including the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Academy of Nursing, the American Academy of Nurse Practitioners, the American Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, National League for Nursing and the National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties, along with input from the broader nursing community, will explore these important issues over the next year.

DO NOT CITE OR QUOTE

“Creating a unified voice for nurses is critical as we look to health care’s future and the changes that will take place in the coming years. GW’s leadership in this field will contribute to addressing the complex issues in nursing and patient care,” said Jean Johnson, PhD, RN, FAAN, senior associate dean, Health Sciences programs.

“This project reflects the nursing community’s commitment to quality patient care and will provide a vital contribution to today’s policy setting. Nurses are the cornerstone of our nation’s healthcare system and this project will play a significant role in ensuring that their voices are heard so that change can be made to improve patient-care in our country,” said Ellen Dawson, PhD, ANP, chair, Department of Nursing Education.

The work on this grant began on September 1, 2008. This is a 12 month grant.

About The George Washington University Medical Center

The George Washington University Medical Center is an internationally recognized interdisciplinary academic health center that has consistently provided high-quality medical care in the Washington, DC metropolitan area, since 1824. The Medical Center comprises the School of Medicine and Health Sciences, the 11th oldest medical school in the country; the School of Public Health and Health Services, the only such school in the nation’s capital; GW Hospital, jointly owned and operated by a partnership between The George Washington University and a subsidiary of Universal Health Services, Inc.; and the GW Medical Faculty Associates, an independent faculty practice plan. For more information on GWUMC, visit www.gwumc.edu.

About the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation focuses on the pressing health and health care issues facing our country. As the nation's largest philanthropy devoted exclusively to improving the quality of the health and health care of all Americans, the Foundation works with a diverse group of organizations and individuals to identify solutions and achieve comprehensive, meaningful, and timely change. For more than 35 years, the Foundation has brought experience, commitment, and a rigorous, balanced approach to the problems that affect the health and health care of those it serves. When it comes to helping Americans lead healthier lives and get the care they need, the Foundation expects to make a difference in your lifetime.

Attachment 2: List of Nursing Organizations

American Association of Diabetic Educators
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists
American Association of Neuroscience Nurses
Academy of Medical Surgical Nurses
Air & Surface Transport Nurses Association
Alliance for Psychosocial Nursing
American Academy of Ambulatory Care
Nursing
American Assembly for Men in Nursing
American Assisted Living Nurses Association
American Association for the History of Nursing
American Association of Critical-Care Nursing
American Association of Heart Failure Nurses
American Association of Legal Nurse
Consultants
American Association of Managed Care Nurses
American Association of Nurse Attorneys
American Association of Occupational Health
Nurses
American Association of Spinal Cord Nurses
American College of Health Association
American College of Nurse Practitioners
American College of Nurse-Midwives
American Forensic Nurses
American Holistic Nurses' Association
American Medical Informatics Association
American Nephrology Nurses Association
American Nursing Informatics Association
American Psychiatric Nurses Association
American Radiological Nurses Association
American Society for Pain Management Nurses
American Society of Peri-Anesthesia Nurses
Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses
Association of Camp Nurses
Association of Child and Adolescent Psychiatric
Nurses
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care
Association of Pediatric Oncology Nurses
Association of Rehabilitation Nurses
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and
Neonatal Nurses
Canadian Nurses Association
Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations
Dermatology Nurses' Association
Developmental Disabilities Nurses Association
Emergency Nurses Association
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association
International Society of Nurses in Genetics
Intravenous Nurses Society
National Association of Neonatal Nurses
National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses
National Association of Pediatric Nurse
Associates and Practitioners
National Association School of Nurses
National Black Nurses Association
National Gerontological Nursing Association
National Nurse Staff Development Organization
National Nurses Society on Addictions
National Organization for Associate Degree
Nursing
Navy Nurse Corps Association
Nurses Christian Fellowship
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs
Oncology Nurses Society
Organization of Nursing Directors of Nursing Homes
RN's Working Together
Sigma Theta Tau
Society for Gastroenterology Nurses and
Associates
Society for Pediatric Nurses
Society for Vascular Nursing
Society of Otorhinolaryngology and Head/Neck
Nurses
Society of the Urologic Nurses and Associates
The National Association of Nurse Massage
Therapists
Transcultural Nursing Society
Visiting Nurse Associations of America
Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society

Attachment 3: Project Web Pages

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DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

RESEARCH NEWS

Department of Nursing Education Awarded Grant to Convene Nursing Leaders - Exploration of Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance

In response to ongoing lapses in patient quality and safety, emerging national policy directions that address transparency and accountability, and an interest by national nursing leaders to respond with a shared 'voice,' in September 2008, GW's Department of Nursing Education was awarded a 12-month planning grant from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) to convene leaders of the nursing community to explore the possibility of establishing a dedicated, national Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance (NQSA).

[Project Summary](#) (PDF)

[Current updates related to the Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance project](#)

[Participation in the Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance project](#)

GW's Department of Nursing Education Awarded \$386,000 HRSA Grant

The Department of Nursing Education (DNE) at The George Washington University (GW) has been awarded a \$386,000 Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) grant to enhance its Doctor of Nursing Practice (DNP) program. The three-year grant will enable the program to increase access to doctoral education for nurses working and living in underserved communities.

"These funds will allow our program to expand and enhance its distance education offerings and to recruit and retain students from underserved areas," said DNP program director, Christine Pintz, PhD, FNP. "Receiving this highly competitive grant reflects our growing reputation as an innovative nursing program."

The funding will be used to prepare graduates as nurse practitioners or nursing administrators in diverse settings. It will also provide additional technology resources such as Web conferencing and online learning objects for DNP students.

For more information about this grant, [click here](#).

GW Faculty Authors White Paper

Ellen Kurtzman, assistant research professor in the Department of Nursing Education, recently authored a white paper on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services' (CMS) final inpatient prospective payment system rule.

The paper—*A Summary of the Impact of Reforms to the Hospital Inpatient Prospective Payment System (IPPS) on Nursing Services*—summarizes the rule and its provisions with emphasis on its impact on nursing services.

GW's two-year study, which is funded by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, is aimed at designing and promoting national policies that reflect nursing's contribution to quality.

For more information about the white paper, [click here](#).

Rewarding Quality Nursing Care

Over the past decade, there has been an enormous investment in holding healthcare providers accountable for the quality of care provided in hospitals and other care settings. Performance measurement and public reporting are now recognized as key vehicles to motivate accountability and achieve improvements in patient safety and healthcare outcomes.

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DEPARTMENT OF NURSING EDUCATION

RESEARCH

Participation in the Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance project

This project is structured to allow selected nursing convener organization to come together to contemplate the need for and interest in a national Nursing Quality and Safety Alliance. However, in recognition of the diversity of the nursing community, every effort is being made to solicit feedback from the broader workforce. To that end, we welcome interested individuals representing national nursing organizations to attend scheduled meetings as 'reactors'. Reactors will have access to the deliberations and share comments, feedback, and suggestions during designated periods.

Schedule of onsite* meetings:
January 26, 2009
April 8, 2009
July 20, 2009

*Meetings are all day on the George Washington University campus in Washington, DC

Criteria for participation:

- You must officially represent a national nursing organization. Each request will be reviewed and a determination will be made relative to attendance.
- You must have submitted a formal request to attend the meeting(s) and obtain confirmation of attendance. This will ensure that adequate seating and other accommodations have been made.

Please specify the following in your request

Date(s) of the meeting(s) you wish to attend January 26, 2009
 April 8, 2009
 July 20, 2009

Organization

Contact Person

Email Address

Mailing Address City

State Zip

Telephone

People Requesting Attendance:

Name	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>
Name	<input type="text"/>	Title	<input type="text"/>

Additional Comments:

You must fund any and all travel and/or costs related to participation.