



American Nurses Association-Maine

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RESOLUTION

TITLE: SUPPORT THE USE OF THE ANA NURSING QUALITY INDICATORS IN ALL HEALTHCARE SETTINGS

WHEREAS,

Gaps exist between the care people receive and the care they should receive, and

WHEREAS,

The people of Maine are worried about many of the changes in our healthcare delivery system and how these changes affect the quality of patient care, and

WHEREAS,

Patients are ultimately paying the price for patient care delivery decisions made by institution administrators and management consultants who rarely rely on clinical research to evaluate the appropriateness of these decisions. Rather, these decisions are driven by a desire to save money, and

WHEREAS,

Short-term financial gains may be realized by healthcare institutions through mechanisms such as chronic under-staffing and expanded use of unlicensed assistive personnel. These cost-containment strategies will eventually result in increased costs as a result of increased medical/surgical complications, increased hospital re-admissions, increased lengths of stay in both acute care and long term care facilities, increased legal liability due to negligent care, and increased mortality rates and overall human suffering, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the AMERICAN NURSES ASSOCIATION-MAINE:

Supports legislation that would require every licensed healthcare facility to make available to the public information regarding nurse staffing and patient outcomes. This information would include the number of Registered Nurses providing direct patient care and the ratio of patients per Registered Nurse as well the incidence of adverse patient care incidences including medication errors, patient injury, decubitus ulcers, and hospital acquired infections (nosocomial infections).

REFERENCES:

1. *ANA Nurse Facts.*
2. *ANA Principles for Nurse Staffing.*

SPONSORED BY:

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ANA-MAINE LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE: E. Connolly (Scarborough), C. Harriman (Bangor), S. Henderson (South Portland), J. L'Heureux (Brunswick), J. Niemczura (Ellsworth), M. Ogonowski (Franklin), N. Byrne Vincent (South Portland).

IMPLEMENTATION PLAN:

The ANA-MAINE Membership shall empower the Board of Directors to release to each national and state nursing organization and to the general media a supportive statement announcing and affirming this resolution.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

Cost of clerical support, postage and news releases.

ADOPTED: 10/5/02