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NEWS RELEASE



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ANA Hosts Meeting to Promote Quality in Electronic Health Documentation

SILVER SPRING, MD – The American Nurses Association (ANA), as part of a coalition to promote nurse involvement in the development of quality measures for electronic health record (EHR) documentation, hosted a conference at its Silver Spring, MD, headquarters on September 13-14, “Tipping Point 2 – A Blueprint for Action: Demonstrating Care Coordination in All Settings with HIT Enabled Pressure Ulcer Quality Measures.”

ANA CEO Marla Weston, PhD, RN, explained the importance of the meeting: “It provided a unique opportunity for the nursing profession to devise strategies for including nursing-sensitive quality measures in health IT—with the ultimate goal of improving patient safety and raising awareness about the contributions of nurses.”

The Institute of Medicine’s (IOM) report, *The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, released October 2010, stressed that nurses “can and should play a fundamental role” in the transformation of the health care system. ANA has taken a leadership role in utilizing technology as a necessary tool to innovate the delivery of care and looks to the Tipping Point meetings to solidify nursing’s role in developing and contributing to the transformation of the national quality health IT landscape.

The Tipping Point 2 meeting included informational sessions led by guest speakers from several federal agencies, including Jack Jordan, deputy director, Partnership for Patients, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)/Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation

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(CMMI); Kate Goodrich, medical director, Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation (ASPE); and Leah Marcotte and Geoffrey Gerhardt, representatives from the Office of the National Coordinator for Information Technology (ONC).

Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, FAAN, NEA-BC, 2010-2011 nurse scholar-in-residence at the Institute of Medicine, research associate professor at the University of Virginia School of Nursing, and editor-in-chief of *American Nurse Today*, and Marilyn Chow, DNSc, RN, FAAN, vice president, Patient Care Services at Kaiser Permanente, acted as the meeting facilitator and co-facilitator, respectively. Together they focused discussions and workgroups on defining critical steps and strategies necessary to model quality measures for adoption into future EHR documentation. These measures capture the key clinical activities that fall under the responsibilities of nurses in health care settings. The initial Tipping Point meeting, held in September 2010 in Denver, Colorado, successfully established pressure ulcer quality measures as part of the 2009 Health Information Technology for Economic and Clinical Health (HITECH) Act Stage 3 Meaningful Use requirements.

ANA believes that nurses are uniquely positioned to implement change within the full spectrum of health care delivery organizations, and recognizes that transforming health care will require collaboration between all stakeholders. ANA is committed to working with the larger nursing community to ensure that nurses are represented in key discussions and decision-making processes related to the design and adoption of meaningful EHR documentation. To that end, ANA will be working to further develop and refine a blueprint that will facilitate the inclusion of pressure ulcers in quality measures and the implementation of a knowledge base within future EHR documentation to support evidence-based nursing practice.

ANA supports enhanced reporting of health care outcomes with a focus on quality. Specifically, it supports the adoption of pressure ulcers measures as quality measures that demand care coordination and encompass all age spectrums and settings of care. ANA has been a long-time advocate for the inclusion of quality indicators in health IT systems and has been working to advance nursing's quality agenda through strategic investment in measure development for future stages of meaningful use in EHRs.

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In this context, “meaningful use” refers to the concept of using certified EHRs in a measurable, effective way to improve the quality of health care. The three main components of meaningful use, according to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, are “the use of certified EHR in a meaningful manner, such as e-prescribing; the use of certified EHR technology for electronic exchange of health information to improve the quality of health care; and the use of certified EHR technology to submit clinical quality and other measures.”

To learn more about ANA’s quality work please visit <http://www.ncnq.org>.

Tipping Point 2 meetings included representatives from the following organizations:

American Nurses Association/American Nurses Credentialing Center

Association of periOperative Registered Nurses

ASPE/HHS

Ascension Health

Aurora Health Care

Dept. of Veterans Affairs

Dept. of Health and Human Services

Elsevier/CPM Resource

GE Healthcare

Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society

Kaiser Permanente

National Institutes of Health

Nursing Alliance for Quality Care (George Washington University School of Nursing)

Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT

Ohio Nurses Association

Partnership for Patients

TheJointComission.org

TIGER Initiative

Thomas Jefferson University

University of Colorado, Denver

University of Kansas School of Nursing

University of Maryland

University of Minnesota

University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee College of Nursing

University of Virginia

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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 and state 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.