

Wisconsin Nurses Association  
2009 Reference Report #1

Subject: Exploration of and Promotion of the Role of the RN in *Family Care*  
Introduced By: WNA Board of Directors  
Core Issue: Nurses Workplace Health, Rights and Safety

Summary: Wisconsin's *Family Care* Program is a comprehensive and flexible long-term care service system, which strives to foster people's independence and quality of life, while recognizing the need for interdependence and support. *Family Care* program will be expanding to all Wisconsin counties by 2011. The majority of members have more than one health diagnosis. The number of managed long-term care program members with 10+ diagnoses decreased in 2008 while the number of members with 0-4 diagnoses increased. This change can be attributed to the change in membership during 2008 with the infusion of younger members. (Long-Term Care in Motion: 2008 Annual Report of Wisconsin's Managed Long-Term Care Programs, DHS, 2008). The role of the RN is critical to the assuring the appropriate delivery of health care services that occurs at the right time, in the right setting and by the right provider.

In 1998 WNA provided the Department of Health and Family Services, members of the *Family Care* Design Team, a statement of position regarding the role of the nurse in *Family Care*. The position addressed the concepts of the need for: 1. Linkages with Primary and Acute Care, 2. Comprehensive Assessment, 3. Workforce Issues, 4. Provision of Comprehensive and Intermediate Services, 5. Prevention Services and, 6. Standardized Data Collection Tools.

Over the past two years, WNA has participated in a variety of meetings with individuals involved in *Family Care*, who are seeking clarification on nursing practice issues. The nursing practice issues relate to direct care/treatment, care management, legal/regulatory policies, workforce supply and staff development/training.

Given these trends, it is important that WNA increase awareness of the policies that impact the role and expectations of the nurse providing care within the *Family Care* Program. This is important to the clients of *Family Care* who deserve access to quality and safe health care services.

Recommendations: That the Wisconsin Nurses Association:

1. Convene a meeting with nurses who are involved in and providing direct nursing care within the *Family Care* Program to determine the professional practice issues.

2. Position WNA to be a resource for improving the nursing care to the *Family Care* client by promoting best-practices and clarifying Federal and State laws and regulations .
3. Provide information to the WNA membership on the status of the Family Care Program and the role of the professional nurse within the program.

Implementation Strategy and Fiscal Note

<b>Activities</b>	<b>Responsible</b>	<b>Cost</b>	<b>Timeframe</b>
1. WNA sponsor a meeting with nurses involved in Family Care.	1. Nursing Practice Council and interested WNA members.	1. \$200.00	FYE 6/30/10
2. Follow-up meetings to identify role of WNA in supporting role of nurse in Family Care.	2.Nursing Practice Council	2. \$200.00	FYE 6/30/11
3. Educational Offering at WNA Convention	3.Nursing Education and Nursing Practice Councils	3. Part of WNA Conference Expenses	FYE 6/30/11
Fiscal Note Total		\$400.00	

WNA Goals

Goal 1. Collectively and collaboratively advocate for access to comprehensive quality health care services for all people, and

Goal 2. Assure that the registered nurse is an essential provider in all practice settings through education, research, workplace advocacy, legislation and regulation