

WNA Reference Report # 2 Emerging Role of the Nurse

Programmatic Pillar: Workforce Advocacy

This topic was defined in a recent article in the New England Journal of Medicine (2013) where the following statement was made:

“The foundation of the health care delivery system is its workforce, including the 2.8 million RNs who provide health care services in countless settings. The importance of RNs is expected to increase in the coming decades, as new models of care delivery, global payment, and a greater emphasis on prevention are embraced. These and other changes associated with health care reform will require the provision of holistic care, greater care coordination, greater adherence to protocols, and improved management of chronic disease – roles that are inherently aligned with the nursing model of care.”

If this topic is selected as a discussion item, the membership will discuss in detail not only new and emerging roles, but the transition and transformation of roles for nurses which might result in the devaluing of nurses in leadership positions.

Auerbach, D., Staiger, D., Muench, U., & Buerhaus, P. (2013). The nursing workforce in an era of health care reform. *The New England Journal of Medicine*, 368(16), 1470-1471.

Recommendations: The Wisconsin Nurses Association Board of Directors will appoint a Task Force that will...

1. Emphasize the importance for the continued and expanding roles of nurses ‘at the table’ where health delivery decisions are made.
2. Serve as a clearinghouse for those offering or seeking information about the emerging roles of the nurse, including those nurses who are currently looking at this, e.g. nurses in the Clinical Nurse Leader role.
3. Champion professional nursing by educating the public and key stakeholders about the emerging roles of the nurse.
4. Include aspects of culture and diversity within the analysis and to decrease disparities.
5. Educate the WI nursing workforce about emerging roles.