Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations and the ANA issue statement on the coordinative role of the registered professional nurse

The Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations (of which the AANA is a member) and the American Nurses' Association (ANA) have recently issued an official statement on the coordinative role of the registered professional nurse.

The statement, which is as follows, was unanimously adopted by the group.

"The registered professional nurse has a responsibility to society to help people retain, attain, and regain the highest possible level of health. The registered professional nurse delivers quality nursing care based on the assessment of the patient's physiologic and psychologic status. A thorough knowledge of the bio-psycho-social and spiritual concepts as well as the necessary skills to meet these responsibilities can be acquired only through an accredited nursing program.

It is the right of the consumer to receive nursing care appropriate to his condition. Therefore, it is incumbent upon the Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations and ANA to promote standards of nursing care that provide for and/or improve the quality of care delivered to each patient.

Be it resolved that:

1. The Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations and ANA recognizes that comprehensive care for patients requires the collective expertise of a variety of health team members, each member contributing to provide optimum health care. In addition, the functions of allied health personnel in many settings interface with the responsibilities of the registered professional nurse. Coordination of the activities of the registered professional nurse and of allied health personnel is imperative to enhance the delivery and prevent the fragmentation of quality patient care.

2. The Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations and ANA believes that the registered professional nurse is responsible for the coordination of all physician-prescribed care, nurse-prescribed care, and care delivered by allied health personnel.

3. The Federation of Specialty Nursing Organizations and ANA will continue to support the consumer's right to optimum health care in all settings."

California MD's agree to stop using relative value studies

American Medical News reported that the California Medical Association (CMA) has entered into a tentative agreement with the Federal Trade Commission to stop publishing and circulating "California Relative Value Studies." In addition, CMA has pledged to attempt to recall relative value editions presently in circulation.

Under the agreement, however, physicians may continue to use relative value coding to report procedures to third parties and government programs.

Jobs in health care are ranked high in stress

Nursing ranked 27th for stress out of 130 other occupations in a recent survey by the Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. The study was based on admission rates of mental health centers, reported AORN Journal.

Out of a variety of occupations surveyed, hospital and health related workers had the highest incidence of mental health problems. This high incidence rate was attributed to "particular stressors" in the hospital environment and the "emotionally demanding" responsibility of caring for the patient.