**2017 Ohio Nurses Association Biennial Convention**

**Reference Proposal #4**

**TITLE: Quality Improvement & Patient Safety Education for Nurse Licensure Renewal**

**SUBMITTED BY**: **Greater Cleveland Nurses Association**

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**RECOMMENDED ACTIONS**

1. ONA will support and work with the Ohio Board of Nursing to require one mandatory contact hour of education related to quality improvement and patient safety as part of the nurse licensure renewal requirement every two years.
2. ONA will support ongoing educational activities in quality improvement and patient safety.

**ONA CORE VALUES**

Goal: Members of the general assembly will utilize ONA expertise when the safety or welfare of the public are being affected.

Vision: The Ohio Nurse Association is a recognized leader and advocate for professional nursing in Ohio.

Mission: To advance professional nursing in Ohio. This will be accomplished by:

* Evolving evidence-based practice
* Influencing legislators
* Promoting education
* Improving Economic and general welfare
* Advocating for quality health care in a cost effective and economically stimulating manner

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

Over the past 25 years, enormous change has occurred within the healthcare industry as well as the United States’ health policy strategic plan. National attention centers on the discussion of what a preventable medical error is, along with how to improve the quality of care to prevent unintentional patient harm. The national spotlight on patient safety continues to direct political, governmental, and healthcare industry quality reform. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (2010) for comprehensive healthcare reform has a goal to provide more access to quality, affordable health care while simultaneously decreasing the growth of the U.S. federal budget spending on health care (HHS, 2015). Arduous scrutiny of healthcare systems related to quality care, patient outcome data, and fiscal responsibility are the new normal in medical care. Patient safety is an emerging discipline as well as the summation of healthcare practices focused on prevention of patient harm. Quality improvement in nursing care focuses on increasing consistency of patient safe and patient centric outcomes.

In 2005, the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) funded the Quality and Safety Education for Nurses (QSEN) initiative. The goal of QSEN is to prepare nurses with the knowledge, skills, and attitudes necessary to continually improve the quality and safety of nursing practice within healthcare (2017). Based on the Institutes of Medicine (IOM) competencies, QSEN faculty, and a national advisory board collaboration, six competencies are identified: patient-centered care, teamwork and collaboration, evidence-based practice, quality improvement, safety, and informatics. The QSEN competencies have been incorporated into undergraduate and graduate level nursing curriculum. The QSEN competencies are fully incorporated in academia and continue to develop as they are integrated into nursing practice. Examples may be found at qsen.org of practice innovations in geriatrics, state QSEN initiatives, healthcare organization implementation, and Joint Commission resources.

The nursing profession has struggled to keep patients safe from preventable death and harm. A summary of sentinel event data reported to the Joint Commission from 1995-2016 shows 9945 events with 5536 resulting in patient death, 940 resulting in permanent harm or loss of function, 398 causing severe temporary harm and 2713 resulting in unexpected additional care. Per the Joint Commission, this data is voluntarily reported and represents a small proportion of actual events (2017).

ONA must work to empower nurses and support their ongoing education and competence in quality improvement and patient safety. ONA support of a mandatory quality and safety educational contact hour for licensure renewal is consistent with the goal of providing a platform for protection, promotion, and advancement of the nursing profession.

**RATIONALE**

* Quality nursing care is the ethical obligation of every nurse.
* Professional nurse competence is an expectation throughout a nurses’ career.
* The American Nurses’ Association (ANA) works to improve patient safety through promotion of quality in nursing care (2017).
* The ANA believes it to be the nursing profession’s responsibility to participate in any process for assurance of nurse competency. This competence is a shared responsibility of the profession, the individual, professional nursing organizations, regulatory bodies and employers (2017).
* The ANA supports legislative initiatives related to nursing education to support competence and quality care. The public has a right to expect nurses to demonstrate professional competence (2017).
* The QSEN competencies are integrated into nursing curricula as baseline competencies for safe practice related to quality and safety in nursing care.
* The Agency for Healthcare Quality Research Patient Safety Indicators for the Medicare population indicated 195,000 deaths per year were caused by medical error (Healthgrades, 2004).
* Examination of health records led researchers to find a medical error death rate of 1.3%, which is the equivalent of 400,000 deaths per year when applied to 2013 inpatient admissions, which is four times the Institutes of Medicine estimate (Classen et al., 2011; American Hospital Association, 2015).

**EXPECTED OUTCOMES**

Research surrounding nursing care and quality improvement demonstrates a direct increase in the quality of patient care in the presence of increased professional practice, high levels of work ethic, teamwork, use of evidence based practice, increased efficiency and nurse empowerment (Bartzak, 2010; Battie, 2013; Kliger, Lacey, Olney, Cox, & O’Neil, 2010; Thrall & Cavaliero, 2012).

**Political Impact-**

1. Ohio residents will receive safe, high quality healthcare in a cost effective manner.
2. Healthcare systems may earn financial re-imbursement for demonstrated improvement in quality metrics and patient safety, therefore, decreasing burden.

**SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES**

1. Provide continuing education in quality improvement and patient safe care.
2. Require one mandatory CE related to quality improvement and patient safety for each nursing licensure renewal cycle.
3. Engage in dialogue with legislators regarding quality improvement initiatives and patient safety.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT**

* Medical error is the 3rd leading cause of death in the United States in 2013 behind heart disease and cancer (Makary & Daniel, 2016).
* In 2008, medical preventable medical errors cost the United States 19.5 billion: $17 billion were directly a result of additional medical care and $1.4 billion are attributed to increased mortality rates (Andel, Davidow, Hollander, & Moreno, 2012).
* Preventable medication errors alone account for $21 billion in wasteful healthcare spending (National Quality Forum, 2010).

$1000.00

* $300.00 - Honorarium
* $200.00 - Staff time
* $500.00 - Advertising

DISCLOSURE: Be advised that the financial impact of all reference proposals is that the cost of implementing reference proposals is incorporated into existing ONA and/or ONF work and initiatives; reference proposals are not line items within the budget.

**REFERENCES**

Available upon request.