



Wisconsin Nurses Association Legislative and Regulatory Agenda for the 2017 – 2019 Biennium

The Wisconsin Nurses Association (WNA) is the professional organization for all registered nurses in Wisconsin. This document summarizes the 2017 - 2019 legislative and regulatory policies that are important to the nursing profession.

Assumptions

Registered nurses are critical to achieving the goals of enhancing the patient experience, improving population health, reducing health care costs and improving the practice experience for nurses in Wisconsin.

WNA members firmly believe that:

Quality nursing care is dependent upon an educated, competent and sustainable nursing workforce.

The practice setting for registered nurses needs to be conducive to delivering safe, timely, and accessible care.

Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses should be actively involved in all aspects of the planning, advocacy, implementation, care coordination and direct care provider role within a transformed health care delivery system.

Registered nurse and the advanced practice registered nurse should be recognized as an essential member of the interdisciplinary team.

Access to quality health care for all people can be achieved if registered nurses are utilized to the full extent of their education, skills, expertise and licensure.

Access to advanced practice registered nurses is particularly critical if all people are to receive quality health care in Wisconsin.

Barriers and restrictions on the scope of professional nursing practice in Wisconsin should be eliminated.

WNA collectively and collaboratively advocates for access to comprehensive and coordinated health care services which enables all individuals to achieve optimal quality of life across the continuum.

WNA members firmly believe that:

Patient and family/caregivers are actively engaged and valued as equal members of the health care team.

Efficient, transparent, patient-centered health care systems include: primary care, community-based programs, prevention and wellness services, chronic disease management and linkages to the community as well as care transitions that reduce the need for more costly medical treatment and hospitalization.

Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are recognized as providing value to quality health care and patient outcomes.

The Patient Experience

- Registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses are uniquely positioned to improve the quality, safety and satisfaction of the patient and their family/caregivers.

- Utilize registered nurses as care coordinators to effectively supports the patient and their family/caregivers in all transitions between care settings.
- Promote patient engagement and self-management that applies health literacy levels and care management services during transitions of care.
- Engagement of patients as partners in their health care.
- Protect the rights and safety of patients in and across all health care settings.
- Protect the rights of patients in all health care plans.
- Provide patient access to and encourage them to engage in their personal health information.
- Promote comprehensive and judicious approach to minimizing overuse/abuse of prescribed or non-prescribed opioids that include crisis intervention, in-patient, community-based treatment and support.
- Support the patient’s active engagement in advanced care planning.
- Provide access to patient-centered team-based care that includes family/caregivers.
- Provide access to telehealth services and care for the patient that are delivered or coordinated by registered nurses and/or advanced practice registered nurses.

Population Health

- Recognize and optimize services that address the social determinants of health such as, safe communities, access to healthy food, adequate transportation and affordable housing.
- Continue state funding of services for children, families and vulnerable populations.
- Promote a strong, viable, well-funded public health system and infrastructure that utilizes state and county health rankings to improve the health of the population.
- Offer comprehensive primary care delivery including prevention and health promotion with ties to community-based health services.
- Address all of the health focus areas identified in Wisconsin’s State Health Plan “Healthiest Wisconsin 2020: Everyone Living Better, Longer”.
- Promote community-based prevention services including screening, nutrition, immunizations, family planning, violence prevention and health education across the life-span.
- Protect the people living in Wisconsin from chemical, physical and psychological forces in the environment that affect health.
- Protect the environment from potentially harmful human impact so that both natural and manmade environments are health enhancing.
- Reduce the number of uninsured and underinsured Wisconsinites by expanding and properly utilizing Medicaid funds.
- Assure a well-prepared emergency response and recovery system.

- Expand coordinated, community-based health care services that include home care, long-term care, palliative and end-of-life care.
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Reducing Cost

- Allow registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses to practice to the full extent of their education, training, experience and license. This has a positive impact for organizations functioning under pay-for-performance, accountable care, and nursing center reimbursement methodology.
 - Provide patient-centered team-based care services utilizing evidence-based program planning, policy development and reimbursement based on value-driven versus fee-for-service delivery systems.
 - Provide affordable prescription drugs, medical supplies, and health care services are accessible and preventable.
 - Provide access to affordable dental and preventive health services.
 - Increase funding to sustain services for community-based prevention and treatment services including mental health, smoking cessation, weight management, substance abuse for alcohol, prescription drugs, opioid and other substances of abuse services.
 - Fund innovation using the principles of financial stewardship to reduce healthcare costs, improve quality, and engage the patient and family/caregivers.
 - Apply evidence-based care to improve patient outcomes.
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Experience of Nursing Education and Nursing Practice

The Nursing Practice Environment

- Utilize registered nurses as care coordinators throughout all settings of healthcare.
- Utilize registered nurses to facilitate and coordinate transitions of care.
- Adopt national nursing standards for title recognition, licensure, education, certification and accreditation for advanced practice registered nurses.
- Identify and incorporate public reporting of nursing quality outcome measures and other nursing-related research.
- Increase utilization of nurse leaders within institutions and governmental agencies and advisory councils.
- Support practice innovation to drive exceptional nursing care.
- Base nurse staffing systems and strategies on “ANA’s Principles for Nurse Staffing”.
- Increase the supply of certified nurse assistants through better pay and adequate training.
- Implement effective institutional and agency policies to minimize nurse fatigue in the workplace.
- Report care related concerns by nurses without retaliation.

- Eliminate bullying and violence in the workplace.
- Promote safe patient handling and ergonomic protection for nurses.
- Eliminate exposure to toxins in the health care environment.

The Education Experience for Registered Nurses

- Increase the supply of nurse educators through a variety of funding options that include student loans, loan forgiveness, fellowships, and financial aid.
- Increase the capacity of nursing education programs to minimize wait times for nursing students through targeted funding.
- Increase the supply of diverse nursing populations by encouraging the selection of nursing as a career, supporting degree completion, matriculation of minority nurses and supporting the importance of cultural congruence in health care.
- Fund an interdisciplinary commission to study and develop a strategy to advance interprofessional education throughout Wisconsin.
- Continue to fund data driven planning including forecasting supply and demand needs for the future nursing workforce.

WNA Mission

Wisconsin Nurses Association is committed to advancing nurses and the nursing profession to improve health for Wisconsin.

Purposes of WNA

- Foster high standards of nursing,
- Stimulate and promote the professional development of nurses and advance their welfare,
- Work for the improvement of health standards and the availability of health care services for all people, and
- Advocate for workplace standards that foster safe patient care and support the profession.

Core Values

Respect, Integrity, Unity, Diversity, Excellence



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