



The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSNA) is strategically committed to supporting the National Academy of Medicine’s action collaborative on countering the U.S. opioid epidemic. The cost, human and financial, of this epidemic is significant and requires an interdisciplinary approach to combat the devastating effects of the opioid epidemic. AMSNA is focused on educating medical-surgical nurses in several key areas and to advocating for the support of nurses and patients experiencing addiction.

Education:

AMSNA provides education about the opioid epidemic in several areas, specifically related to pain management in the era of reduced opioid prescribing, identifying and managing opioid withdrawal, monitoring patient status after opioid administration, and patient education related to opioid administration and addiction. Further, we have supported and promoted the education available through our colleague nursing associations, such as the Hospice and Palliative Nurse (HPNA) free webinar on effective opiate interventions entitled, *“Opioid Pain Management in Serious Illness: Assessing the Educational Needs of Patients and Families Across the Lifespan”*.

This education is available in a number of formats, including convention sessions, e-learning, webinars and journal manuscripts to appeal to nurses preferred education format. We have also covered this topic in our MedSurg Matters newsletter and have planned podcast episodes that addresses this important topic.

Advocacy:

In 2018, AMSNA President Robin Hertel EdS, MSN, CMSRN, and CEO Terri Hinkley, EdD, MBA, BScN, RN participated in the Nurse in Washington Internship (NIWI) as part of the Nursing Community Coalition. During their visits to Representative Kevin Yoder, Senator Jerry Moran, Senator Pat Roberts, Senator Cory Booker and Senator Robert Hernandez, Hertel and Hinkley encouraged the legislators to co-sponsor bills S.2004/H.R. 4501 (Combating the Opioid Epidemic Act). Furthermore, AMSNA encouraged its members to reach out to their legislators to encourage their sponsorship of these bills.

AMSNA is committed to continuing to educate its membership on this important topic and will continue to advocate for the resources necessary to combat this deadly epidemic.

The Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses (AMSNA; amsn.org) is a vibrant community of medical-surgical nurses that represents the largest group of nurses practicing in the acute care environment today. AMSNA promotes excellence in medical-surgical nursing by providing education, professional resources, and networking opportunities to its over 12,000 members.

Medical-surgical nurses apply high-level skills, as well as compassion and commitment, to care for patients in a broad range of settings, from hospitals to communities to battlefields. They care for patients who are being treated for cancer, heart disease, diabetes, and many other acute and chronic illnesses. Medical-surgical nurses are also influential advocates, leaders, educators, and researchers.