

ANA ENTERPRISE



Commitment Statement by the ANA Enterprise to the NAM Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic

The steady rise of opioid-related drug overdoses and deaths—116 deaths in 2016—in the United States over the past two decades presents a unique and terrible challenge to every level of the nation’s health care system. The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the American Nurses Association (ANA) recognize that nurses are currently working on the frontlines of this crisis.

ANCC and the ANA are committed to working with the National Academy of Medicine’s Action Collaborative to counter the opioid epidemic by utilizing nurses’ educations and skills along with their unique positions as educators and patient advocates.

ANCC and ANA have committed to:

- Representing ANCC and ANA on the Action Collaborative’s Steering Committee; Prevention, Treatment and Recovery; and Research, Data and Metrics Work Groups, as well as co-chairing the Health Professional Education and Training Work Group.
- Supporting and contributing to the work of the Conjoint Committee on Continuing Education (CCCE), an interprofessional group that is focused on addressing the opioid crisis through the power of education. The CCCE was part of an unprecedented collaboration that leveraged the accredited continuing education (CE) community to deliver prescriber education as part of the Food and Drug Administration Opioid Analgesics Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy.
- Developing board certification examinations for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRNs) and Registered Nurses (RNs) that serve to validate nurses’ specialty practice in areas such as pain management, nursing leadership, psychiatric, and advanced practice nursing. Through its specialty certifications, ANCC is working to ensure that health care professionals who prescribe or administer opioids are properly trained and educated in opioid prescribing—training that is a critical and necessary investment.
- Creating and disseminating evidence-based standards that promote a patient-centered, interprofessional approach to pain management. These standards help guide nurses in the prevention, early-recognition, and intervention of pain issues in primary care settings. These standards can help reduce inappropriate opioid prescribing.

- Supporting and investing in the scientific and clinical research needed to advance the development, assessment, and deployment of abuse-deterrent technologies. This includes improving clinical education and decision making to reduce inappropriate prescribing and enhancing prescription monitoring and health information technology (health IT) to support appropriate pain management. Issues surrounding abuse and misuse of prescription opioids must be balanced with the real and legitimate needs of those seeking treatment for pain.
- Advocating for and empowering nurses—at the individual and organizational level—to reduce or remove barriers to help patients manage pain effectively.

For more information, visit nursingworld.org

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