



American Psychiatric Nurses Association Commitment Statement

Psychiatric mental-health nurses are positioned on the front lines to address the alarming trends in opioid use and overdose in the United States. By treating patients in the variety of settings where patients access care, whether in emergency departments, community health centers, psychiatric hospitals, or prisons, and by treating the whole patient with a unique combination of holistic nursing, psychiatric, and pharmacologic approaches, psychiatric mental-health nurses provide vital access to care for underserved populations.

As the largest professional membership organization in the United States committed to these nurses, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) pledges ongoing dissemination of education and resources to address opioid use and overdose. By empowering its members and other nurse audiences with training and best practices, and by participating in a variety of stakeholder groups working to alleviate this crisis, APNA is tackling this epidemic.

APNA will continue to provide free continuing education on effective treatments for opioid use disorders (for various nursing audiences) and free Medication Assisted Treatment Waiver Training for Advanced Practice Registered Nurses. APNA will provide a forum to address opioid use regularly at conferences and in research published in the *Journal of the American Psychiatric Nurses Association*. APNA will continue to ensure that psychiatric-mental health nursing is helping to drive policy related to this matter through participation in stakeholder groups.

As a provider of education and a source of expertise for stakeholder groups, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association demonstrates a commitment to improve access to safe and effective care and treatment for those impacted by opioid use and overdose. APNA is committed to working with the National Academy of Medicine's Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic to address this crisis.