

TOPIC: **IN SUPPORT OF EXPANDING NURSING KNOWLEDGE OF PHARMACOLOGY THROUGH CONTINUING EDUCATION**

SUBMITTED BY: **Mercy College of Health Sciences**

AUTHORS: **Ashley Hilsabeck, Ashley Ladroma, Amy Massey, Joe Mowers, Chad Reyna**

WHEREAS, pharmacology is not a mandatory education requirement for the 24 or 36 contact hours of registered nurses licensure in the state of Iowa; (Iowa Board of Nursing, 2013), and

WHEREAS, pharmacology is an ever evolving and dynamic discipline. The FDA published data collected over a 15 year period stating there are an average of 90 (sd15.6) new FDA approved drugs annually; (U.S. Food and Drug Administration, 2013), and

WHEREAS, “drug administration and medication-related activities form a major part of a Registered Nurses’ (RN) work and responsibility in everyday practice”; (Sulosaari, Suhonen, & Leino-Kilpi, p. 464, 2011), and

WHEREAS, “[a] nurse’s knowledge depends upon their practice; they usually master administration skills, but lack information on side effects, contraindications, and drug-drug interactions”; (Daouphars, Magali, Bertrand, Basuyau, Violette, & Varin, 2012, p. 186), and

WHEREAS, “ drug management is a major task for nurses, and their low basic knowledge and high risk for errors gives cause for concern...medication knowledge is unsatisfactory among practicing nurses, with a significant risk for medication errors”; (Simonsen, Johansson, Daehlin, Osvik, and, Farup, 2011), and

WHEREAS, nurses rely on data bases for on-going pharmacology knowledge, however most do not routinely access these resources; (Daouphars, Magali, Bertrand, Basuyau, Violette, & Varin, 2012), and

WHEREAS, the complexity of administering medications indicates that pharmacological knowledge is required to support the administration of drugs and clinical decision making involved in medication management; (Wright, 2013), therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Association of Nursing Students encourage three of the currently required continuing education units for license renewal for registered nurses in the state of Iowa have a focus on pharmacology education, if feasible; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Association of Nursing Students provide information regarding the recommendation on continued pharmacology education to their constituents via the Iowa Association of Nursing Students newsletter and website; be it further

RESOLVED, that the Iowa Association of Nursing Students send a copy of this resolution to the Iowa State Board of Nursing, Iowa Nurses Association, National Student Nursing Association, National League for Nursing, American Nursing Association and all others deemed appropriate by the Iowa Association of Nursing Students Board of Directors.

References

- Daouphars, M., Magali, A., Bertrand, E., Basuyau, F., Violette, S., & Varin, R. (2012). Knowledge assessment and information needs of oncology nurses regarding inpatient medication. *Clinical Journal of Oncology Nursing, 16*(2), 182-187.
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- Simonsen, B., Johansson, I., Daehlin, G., Osvik, L., Farup, P. (2011). Medication knowledge, certainty, and risk of errors in health care: a cross-sectional study. *BMC Health Services Research, 11*(175).
- Sulosaari, V., Suhonen, R., & Leino-Kilpi, H. (2011). An integrative review of the literature on registered nurses' medication competence. *Journal of Clinical Nursing, 20*(3/4), 464-478. doi:10.1111/j.1365-2702.2010.03228.x
- U.S. Food and Drug Administration. (2013). Summary of NDA approvals & receipts, 1938 to the present. In *About FDA*. Retrieved from <http://www.fda.gov/AboutFDA/WhatWeDo/History/ProductRegulation/SummaryofNDAApprovalsReceipts1938tothepresent/default.htm>.
- Wright, K. (2013). The role of nurses in medicine administration errors. *Nursing Standard, 27*(44), 35-40.

September 30, 2013

IANS Board of Directors,

Per your request, the estimated costs associated with implementation of our resolution, *In Support of Expanding Nursing Knowledge of Pharmacology Through Continuing Education* would include any additional costs associated with printing of the newsletter, printing copies of the resolution and postage to mail to the recommended nursing organizations listed on the resolution and other organizations deemed feasible by the IANS Board of Directors. Listed below are the costs that can be anticipated:

6 copies of 2 page resolution @ \$.10 each = \$1.20

6 envelopes @ \$0.10 each = \$.60

Postage @ \$.46 per 6 packages = @ \$2.76

Total approximate anticipated costs = \$5.00

Respectfully,

Ashley Hilsabeck, Ashley Ladroma, Amy Massey, Joe Mowers, Chad Reyna

Mercy College Association of Nursing Students, Resolution Authors

Abstract

The purpose of this resolution is to highlight the issue of not having mandatory pharmacology continuing education units (CEU's) as a prerequisite to registered nurse license renewal in the State of Iowa. The resolution discusses the value of pharmacology knowledge in the domain of nursing and the consequences of inadequate continuing education. The evidence used was collected from recent nursing journals, articles, and government websites. The intended outcome of this resolution is to require a minimum of CEU's of pharmacology be assigned within the existing CEU requirements.

- **American Nursing Association**
8515 Georgia Ave Suite 400
Silver Spring, MD 20910
1-800-274-4ANA
<http://www.nursingworld.org/>
- **Iowa Association of Nursing Students**
www.iowanursingstudents.org/
- **Iowa Nurses Association**
2400 86th Street #32
Urbandale, IA 50322
(515) 225-0495
info@iowanurses.org
- **National League for Nursing**
The Watergate 2600 Virginia Avenue, NW Eighth floor
Washington, DC 20037
800-669-1656
<http://www.nln.org/>
- **National Student Nursing Association**
45 Main Street, Suite 606
Brooklyn, NY 11201
718-210-0705
<http://www.nсна.org/>
- **Iowa Board of Nursing**
RiverPoint Business Park
400 S.W. 8th Street, Suite B
Des Moines, IA 50309-4685
<http://www.state.ia.us/nursing/>