An Introduction to the Interagency Collaborative on Nursing Statistics

Theresa M. Valiga, EdD, RN

In May 1999, I attended my first meeting of the Interagency Collaborative on Nursing Statistics (ICONS), then known as the Interagency Conference on Nursing Statistics, and learned about a network of individuals dedicated to promoting collaboration and standards for research related to nurses, nursing education, and the nursing work force. In the 2 years since the meeting, ICONS has clarified its mission, vision, and goals; changed its name to the Interagency Collaborative on Nursing Statistics (to more clearly reflect its mission); and made significant progress in refining a "definitions document" that will be an excellent resource for researchers.

ICONS began in 1953 when statisticians from the American Nurses Association (ANA) and the Division of Nursing Resources of the Public Health Service began discussions about data collection issues. Today members of ICONS include representatives from numerous organizations and government agencies that have expressed a commitment - through their mission, goals, or strategic plans - to research about nurses, nursing education, and/or the nursing workforce. This public/private partnership now includes representatives from each of the following organizations/agencies:

- American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN)

- American Association of Nurse Anesthetists (AANA)

- American Nurses Association (ANA)

- American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE)

- Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS)

- Commission on Graduates of Foreign Nursing Schools (COGFNS)

- Division of Nursing (DN) of the Bureau of Health Professionals (BHPr), Human Resources Services Administration (HRSA), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- National Center for Health Statistics (NCHS) of the Public Health Service (PHS), Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS)

- National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN)

- National League for Nursing (NLN)

ICONS values interagency collaboration and coordinated research efforts to address issues related to nurses, nursing education, and the nursing work force; and its vision is to be the leader in advancing coordinated, focused research efforts in these areas. The mission of this interagency, no-funded alliance is to promote the generation and utilization of data, information, and research to facilitate evidence-based decision making about nurses, nursing education, and the nursing work force. In relation to these areas of interest, the goals of ICONS are as follows:

- Enhance collaboration among member organizations/agencies regarding data, information, and research.

- Promote evidence-based decision making.

- Promote the use of standardized definitions and terminology in data collection and reporting.

- Systematically identify needs and gaps in knowledge.

- Encourage coordinated, focused quality research efforts.

In order to accomplish these goals, ICONS is developing a marketing plan; designing a Web site where our work will be made available to researchers, legislators, and other decision makers; and exploring how we can facilitate collaboration among researchers interested in nurses, nursing education, and the nursing work force. If you are interested in knowing more about ICONS or receiving a list of individual representatives to this collaborative, please contact me at tvaliga@nln.org . Any member of ICONS would be pleased to talk with you about our work, our goals, and the resources we have available.

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49th ANNUAL CONVENTION

NASHVILLE

Opryland Hotel
Nashville, TN ★ April 4-8, 2001

Delegates to Vote on Revised Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct

Delegates seated in the 2001 NSNA House of Delegates will vote on the *Revised* Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct when they meet in Nashville, Tennessee April 4-8. If adopted it will complete the Code of Ethics which includes professional, academic, and clinical guidelines. The completed Code of Ethics taken in concert with the Bill of Rights and Responsibilities for Students of Nursing provides comprehensive guidelines that set the tone for professional development.

The Bylaws/Policies Committee developed a Fact Sheet to educate the members about the development of the NSNA Code and the purpose of having a Code of Ethics. These two documents are included here for your review.

Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct

Preamble

Students of nursing have a responsibility to society in learning the academic theory and skills needed to provide nursing care. The clinical setting presents unique challenges and responsibilities in actively practicing that care while caring for human beings in a variety of health care environments.

The Code of Academic and Clinical Conduct is based on an understanding that to practice nursing as a student is an agreement to uphold the trust which society has placed in us. The statements of the Code provide guidance for the nursing student in the personal development of an ethical foundation and need not be limited strictly to the academic or clinical environment, but can assist in the holistic development of the person.

A Code for Nursing Students

As students are involved in the clinical and academic environments we believe that ethical principles are a necessary guide to professional development. Therefore, within these environments we:

1. Advocate for the rights of all clients.
2. Maintain client confidentiality.
3. Take appropriate action to ensure the safety of clients and others.
4. Provide care for the client in a timely, compassionate, and professional manner.
5. Communicate client care in a truthful, timely, and accurate manner.
6. Actively promote the highest level of moral and ethical principles and accept responsibility for our actions.
7. Promote excellence in nursing by encouraging lifelong learning and personal development.
8. Treat others with respect and promote an environment that respects human rights, values and choice of cultural and spiritual beliefs.
9. Cooperate in every reasonable manner with the academic faculty and clinical staff to ensure the highest quality of client care.
10. Use every opportunity to improve faculty and clinical staff understanding of the learning needs of nursing students.
11. Encourage faculty, clinical staff, and peers to mentor nursing students.
12. Refrain from performing any technique or procedure for which the student has not been adequately trained.
13. Refrain from any action or omission of care in the academic or clinical setting that creates unnecessary risk of injury to the client, self, or others.
14. Assist the staff nurse or preceptor in ensuring that there is full disclosure and that proper authorizations are obtained from clients regarding any form of treatment or research.
15. Abstain from the use of alcoholic beverages or any substances in the academic and clinical setting that impair judgment.
16. Strive to achieve and maintain an optimal level of personal health.
17. Support access to treatment and rehabilitation for students who are experiencing impairments related to substance abuse and mental or physical health issues.
18. Uphold school policies and regulations related to academic and clinical performance, reserving the right to challenge and critique rules and regulations as per school grievance policy.

Fact Sheet: Purpose for a Code of Ethics

"A code of ethics is more a collective expression of conscience and philosophy than a set of rules imposed upon an individual" (American Nurses' Association, 1985, p. iii).

A code of ethics indicates a profession's acceptance of the responsibility and trust with which it has been invested by society.

A code of ethics provides general principles for members to help guide and evaluate their own action.

Many organizations, such as The American Nurses' Association, The American Psychological Association, and the International Council of Nurses', utilize codes of ethics to assist their members in decision making and personal development.

History of the National Student Nurses' Association Code of Ethics

In 1975 the House of Delegates adopted "The Students Bill of Rights and Responsibilities."

"The Students Bill of Rights and Responsibilities" was updated in 1991. At this time the need for a Code of Conduct became apparent.

The Code of Conduct was originally designed to be a three-part document in order to focus on the three environments in which members of the NSNA function: the association, academic, and clinical environment.

The NSNA Association Code of Conduct was adopted by the 1997 House of Delegates.

The 1999-2000 Board of Directors decided the remaining academic and clinical parts of the code of conduct could be combined into one document.

The 2000 House of Delegates felt that the "Code of Clinical and Academic Professional Conduct" needed to be "sent back to committee" for revision.

The 2000-2001 Board of Directors has undertaken revisions to the Code with three main objectives in mind: review and use of the 2000 debate of the Code, educate the membership to the history and purpose of the Code, and allow the membership to contribute to the Code's ongoing development.

The "Code of Clinical And Academic Conduct" has undergone extensive review and revision through research into existing codes of conduct, input from the membership, a participatory forum at the 2000 midyear conference, and review of the debate in the 2000 House of Delegates.

The "Code of Clinical and Academic Conduct" will function as a resource for the members of the National Student Nurses' Association and schools of nursing nationwide to help guide academic and clinical conduct of the nursing student.

The 2001 House of Delegates will debate and vote on the revised "Code of Clinical and Academic Conduct."

References

American Nurses'Association. (1985). *Code for nurses'with interpretive statements*. p. iii.

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Corey, Gerald, Corey, Marianne Schneider and Callanan, Patrick. (1993). *Issues and ethics in the helping professions.* 4th ed. Pacific Grove, Ca.:Brooks /Cole Publishing Co.

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Faculty Schedule

There will be great excitement and lots of activity when NSNA kicks off its 49th Annual Convention in Nashville, TN, April 4-8, 2001. Inspired by the outstanding music and southern hospitality, the convention offers you many educational opportunities. Join us and network with your colleagues in the Faculty Lounge, hear nationally recognized speakers discuss important nursing trends and issues, visit the busy exhibits, and attend the gala awards reception.

NSNA welcomes the opportunity to provide continuing education at the Convention. For details on how to pre-register (faculty advisors and state consultants pay only $60.00) and hotel information, visit www.nsna.org (click on MEETINGS), or call 212-581-2211 and request a convention brochure.

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2001

The Mentor Connection
Speaker: Connie Vance, EdD, RN, FAAN, co-author, The Mentor Connection in Nursing, Springer Publishing Co., 1998
Sponsor: Nursing Spectrum, Falls Church, VA
2:00 pm - 9:00 pm (separate registration and fee required, dinner included). **CE Credit**

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4, 2001

Orientation for New Consultants and Advisors
10:00 am - 11:30 am

Creating a Web-based Course
Speaker: Joan Thiele, PhD, RN, Intercollegiate Center for Nursing Education, Spokane, WA
Sponsor: The National League for Nursing, New York, NY
1:00 pm - 3:00 pm **CE Credit**

Opening Session and Keynote Address
Sponsor: Nurses Service Organization, Hatboro, PA
5:00 pm - 6:00 pm

Please join us for an Invitational Reception for Dr. Robert Piemonte and Special Guests
Immediately Following the Opening Ceremonies.

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2001

International Nursing: Challenges and Opportunities
Speaker: Mary Foley, MS, RN, President, American Nurses Association, Virginia Trotter Betts, JD, RN, Former ANA President and presently at the University of Tennessee, Memphis, and Cheryl Peterson, MSN, RN, Director, International Nursing Center, American Nurses Association.
Sponsor: American Nurses Association, Washington, DC
9:00 am - 10:30 am **CE Credit**

Evidence-based Practice and the Educator Role
Speaker: Suzanne Prevost, PhD, RN, CNAA, Professor and NHC Chair of Excellence in Nursing at Middle Tennessee State University, School of Nursing
Sponsor: Sigma Theta Tau International, Indianapolis, IN
11:30 am - 12:30 pm **CE Credit**

Power Teaching
Speaker: JoAnn Graham Zerwekh, Associate Clinical Professor, Northern Arizona University and Consultant Nursing Education Consultants, Dallas Texas
Sponsor: Nursing Education Consultants, Dallas, Texas

If you have finished with this newsletter,
please pass it along to share with a colleague or friend.

1:30 pm - 2:30 pm   **CE Credit**
Consultant and Advisors Briefing
Speaker: Eunice Cole, BS, RN, appointed ANA consultant and Stephanie Ferguson, PhD, RN, FAAN, NLN Appointed consultant
2:30 pm - 3:45 pm

Introduction to PubMed
Speaker: Toni C. Yancey, MLS, outreach coordinator, National Network of Libraries of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
Sponsor: National Library of Medicine, Baltimore, MD
3:45 pm - 4:45 pm

FRIDAY, APRIL 6, 2001

Using Web-based Applications in Nursing Education
Speaker: Laurie Davis, Technical Project Manager, Delmar Thomson Learning, Albany, NY
Sponsor: Delmar Thomson Learning, Albany, New York
7:30 am - 9:00 am   **CE Credit**

What is the Preferred Future of Nursing Education and How do We Begin to Create It?
Speaker: Colleen Conway-Welch, PhD, RN, CNM, FAAN, FACNM, Professor and Dean, Vanderbilt University School of Nursing, Nashville, TN
Sponsored by National League for Nursing New York, NY
9:00 am - 10:15 am   **CE Credit**

Substance Abuse Among Nursing Students
Speaker: Martha Buckner, MSN, RN, Adult Health clinical Nurse Specialist and an Assistant Professor of Nursing at Belmont University School of Nursing in Nashville, TN
Sponsor: MCP Hahnemann University, Philadelphia, PA
3:00 pm - 4:30 pm   **CE Credit**

Consultants and Advisors Roundtables
Speakers: Eunice Cole, BS, RN, ANA appointed consultant and Stephanie Ferguson, PhD, RN, FAAN, NLN appointed consultant
4:45 pm - 6:15 pm

SATURDAY, APRIL 15, 2000

Writing and Getting Published
Speaker: Cheryl Mee, MSN, RN, C, clinical director, Nursing 2001, Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens,
Sponsor: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkens, Publishers of Nursing 2001, Philadelphia, PA
8:30 am - 10:00 am

Dot-com or dot-con? Teaching Students to Critically Analyze Information on the WWW
Speaker: Mary Anne Rizzolo, EdD, RN, FAAN, executive director, NursingCenter.com, New York
Sponsor: Lippincott, Williams and Wilkins, New York, NY
10:15 am - 11:15 am   **CE Credit**

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