

1                                   **Report of the 2021 ANA Professional Policy Committee**

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3                                   Presented by: Susan King, MS, RN, CEN, FAAN, Committee Member  
4                                   On behalf of Ann O’Sullivan, MSN, RN, NE-BC, CNE, ANEF  
5                                   Chair, ANA Professional Policy Committee  
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7 President Grant and ANA Membership Assembly Representatives:  
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9 The ANA Professional Policy Committee convened four virtual Dialogue Forums. Dialogue  
10 Forum #1, *Health Care Delivery Systems that Fully Incorporate Nursing Services*, and #2,  
11 *Precision Health and Genomics*, were held on Tuesday, June 1, 2021. Dialogue Forum #3, *APRN*  
12 *Full Practice in Nursing Homes*, and #4, *Lessons Learned: COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Standards of*  
13 *Care*, were held on Thursday, June 3, 2021.  
14

15 One proposal was received for consideration as an emergent proposal prior to the deadline at  
16 5:00 pm ET on Monday, June 7, 2021. The proposal, *Recognizing Mary Eliza Mahoney during*  
17 *National Nurses Week/Month*, was determined to not meet the criteria to be considered by the  
18 2021 Membership Assembly. Specifically, per Section 4 of the Membership Assembly Policy  
19 Development Guide, the information contained in the submission was known prior to the  
20 submission deadline for 2021 Call for Proposals. The ANA Professional Policy Committee has  
21 communicated with the submitters and forwarded the proposal to the ANA Board of Directors  
22 for consideration prior to the board’s May 2022 meeting.  
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24 An online comment period focused on reviewing the recommendations following the Dialogue  
25 Forums was held from Wednesday, June 9, 2021, to 12:00pm ET, Monday, June 14, 2021. Nine  
26 (9) individuals submitted comments during this period.  
27

28 **Dialogue Forum #1 Health Care Delivery Systems that Fully Incorporate Nursing**  
29 **Services**

30 This Dialogue Forum topic was submitted by ANA Board of Directors in 2020.  
31

32 **Issue Overview:**

33                                   The ANA Board of Directors requests that the ANA Membership Assembly endorse  
34 universal health care coverage that assures access to comprehensive nursing services,  
35 incorporating appropriate reimbursement of all needed services and full practice  
36 authority for all nurses in the health care delivery system; therefore, rescinding its 1999  
37 House of Delegates (HOD) approved policy endorsing single-payer as the most desirable  
38 option for financing a reformed health care system.  
39

40                                   Regardless of how the health care system is financed (private payer, public option,  
41 single payer, payment based on quality, etc.), ANA needs flexibility to advocate for

42 equitable payment for nursing services and to allow nurses to practice at the top of their  
43 training, while also advocating for patient access to needed, quality care.  
44

#### 45 **Summary of Dialogue Forum Discussion**

- 46 • Overall, there was support for this recommendation.
- 47 • One commenter applauded ANA’s consideration of moving to this position, increased  
48 political awareness, and savvy. Single payer unlikely in the U.S.
- 49 • One commenter noted that we all want to have basic health costs covered by either  
50 single payer or universal care. How do we ensure that with universal care, competing  
51 insurance companies do not raise prices and cost limiting access? How will we avoid a  
52 multi-tiered system where the rich get better coverage?
- 53 • Another commenter noted that this is important so that we can be at the table  
54 regardless of who pays, to define “basic health rights for all.”
- 55 • One commenter reflected that ANA is challenged when restricted to speak to only one  
56 system. Removing restrictions allows access to discussion to the variety of systems.
- 57 • Another commenter referenced that the Future of Nursing 2030 report speaks to this  
58 issue regarding payment/reimbursement for nursing services and ensuring access,  
59 quality, and equity. This direction is in line with the National Academy of Medicine  
60 report.
- 61 • One commenter noted that “universal healthcare” is a term that is misunderstood given  
62 history. We are advocating for any system of health care coverage that is equitable and  
63 assures access to nursing services. Nomenclature that incorporates reimbursement for  
64 nurses etc. is important.
  - 65 ○ The submitters noted that the definition of universal healthcare included in the  
66 background document was the World Health Organizations definition: universal  
67 health coverage ensures that *all people have access to needed health services*  
68 *(including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of*  
69 *sufficient quality to be effective while also ensuring that the use of these services*  
70 *does not expose the user to financial hardship.* The submitters noted that this  
71 was included for context and may change should this recommendation move  
72 forward.

#### 74 **Comment Period**

- 75 • One commenter noted that while a single payer system was their preferred approach,  
76 they recognized that there is not wide-spread support for this financial approach;  
77 therefore, the commenter endorses the proposed recommendation. The commenter  
78 agreed with the recommendation of defining “universal healthcare.”

- 79
- 80 • Another commenter noted that “incorporating appropriate reimbursement of all  
81 needed services” should ensure that APRNs are reimbursed at 100% of the fee pay  
82 schedule.
  - 83 • A commenter concurred with the recommendation noting that it provided ANA with  
84 more flexibility, supports ANA being at policy making tables, and was more in keeping  
85 with the political climate.
  - 86 • Another commenter agreed with the recommendation but felt the use of the term  
87 “rescinding” is harsh. Would recommend a gentler term, such as “revision.”
  - 88 • One commenter noted that it seems awkward trying to fit comprehensive nursing  
89 services into a position that is really trying to move from single payer to universal  
90 coverage. Nursing is in the draft position, but what universal coverage means is not. I do  
91 not support the recommendation without the WHO definition of "universal coverage"  
92 (universal health coverage ensures that all people have access to needed health services  
93 (including prevention, promotion, treatment, rehabilitation and palliation) of sufficient  
94 quality to be effective while also ensuring that the use of these services does not expose  
95 the user to financial hardship). ANA needs to stand strong for a reformed health care  
96 system that fulfills the WHO definition. To do less during this time of focus on equity  
97 and racism seems especially inappropriate.
- 98 Several people in the dialogue forum suggested a second position for the full  
99 incorporation of nursing services, which I agreed with. Perhaps, instead, a second  
100 paragraph about nursing services (I'm not all that fond of the term "nursing services".  
101 Isn't there another way of describing access to appropriate nursing care at every level,  
102 in every setting where healthcare is provided?)
- 103 • The Wisconsin Nurses Association support the recommendation as presented.

104 **The Professional Policy Committee reflected on the comments made regarding the need to**  
105 **define the term universal health care coverage.** The board included the World Health  
106 Organizations’ definition of universal coverage in the background document as context but  
107 noted an ongoing need for flexibility as this recommendation hopefully moves forward into  
108 implementation. The Committee is very sympathetic to both the attendees’ desire for a  
109 definition and the board’s desire for flexibility. The Professional Policy Committee chose not to  
110 include the WHO definition in the recommendation; however, it strongly urges the ANA Board  
111 of Directors to quickly establish a definition of “universal health care coverage.”

112  
113 **RECOMMENDATION:**

- 114 1. ANA adopts the position to:
- 115 Endorse universal health care coverage that assures equitable access to comprehensive  
116 nursing services, incorporating appropriate reimbursement of all needed services and  
117 full practice authority for all nurses in the health care delivery system; *therefore,*

118 rescinding its 1999 House of Delegates approved policy endorsing single-payer as the  
119 most desirable option for financing a reformed health care system.

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121 **Background Document:** [Health Care Delivery Systems that Fully Incorporate Nursing Services](#)

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## 124 **Dialogue Forum #2: Precision Health and Genomics**

125 This Dialogue Forum topic was submitted by Kathleen Calzone, PhD, RN, AGN-BC, FAAN,  
126 Maryland Nurses Association; Laurie Badzek, LLM, JD, MS, RN, FAAN, Pennsylvania State Nurses  
127 Association; and Mary Anne Schultz, PhD, MBA, MSN, RN and Evangeline Fangonil-Gagalang,  
128 PhD, MSN, RN, ANA\California. This proposal was submitted in 2020.

129

### 130 **Issue Overview**

131 Genomics is the entire set of genetic instructions found in a cell, including their  
132 interactions with each other, the environment, and the influence of other psychosocial  
133 and cultural factors. Precision Health is an approach to wellness which is underpinned  
134 by genomics and is respectful of individual lifestyle, behaviors and environmental  
135 contexts of our uniqueness. Precision Health and Genomics (PH&G) can increase  
136 therapeutic efficacy, safety, quality, and reduce healthcare costs. As these are clinically  
137 relevant throughout the entire healthcare continuum from before birth to after death  
138 has implications for the entire nursing profession regardless of level of academic  
139 training, role, or clinical specialty. There exists confusion amongst providers and their  
140 organizations as to implications of PH&G and as a result there is no consensus or  
141 direction from national provider organizations including nursing societies. Nursing, as  
142 the most trusted healthcare provider has both a clinical, moral, and ethical obligation to  
143 establish a multi-faceted initiative to overcome organizational and nursing practice  
144 deficits in PH&G. Therefore, these phenomena are deserving of the time, attention, and  
145 resources of our nation's largest, and arguably, most influential, provider organization--  
146 the American Nurses Association.

147

### 148 **Summary of Dialogue Forum Discussion**

- 149 • Attendees voiced support for this report and recommendations.
- 150 • Several attendees acknowledged a lack of awareness of this science and the potential  
151 impact on healthcare.
- 152 • One commenter noted that this is an essential topic, and it is imperative we are  
153 proactive as opposed to being reactive to genomics and impact on healthcare.
- 154 • One concern raised was the potential for racial and social inequities as it pertains to  
155 precision health services. Often these services are for insured individuals. As we look to

- 156 advance this incredible practice, we must continue the conversation and efforts to  
157 include vulnerable populations and reflect on the social determinants of health.  
158 ○ The submitters noted that the underserved and vulnerable populations are a  
159 focus for large National Institutes of Health study, [All of Us Research Program](#).  
160 ● Several attendees spoke to personal and professional experiences where Precision  
161 Health/Genomics are informing treatment and ongoing therapeutic interventions.  
162 ● It was also noted that targeted testing and therapies resulting from Precision  
163 Health/Genomics can reduce the cost of health care.  
164 ● When developing basic level competencies, it was recommended to include education  
165 to guide patients about differences in testing and limits of testing including privacy  
166 issues. Commenters recounted their professional experience “When I run metabolic  
167 genetic testing, I often have patients asking if this test will tell them if they will get  
168 cancer or dementia in the future or whether “the government” will have their DNA  
169 information on file after running the test. I think it’s important to educate nurses about  
170 testing available and differences in what we test for so that the information can be  
171 shared with patients.”  
172 ● Several commenters referenced the need to make sure that we consider ethics and  
173 privacy issues.  
174 ● Will need guidance for integrating this content into curriculum.

175  
176 **Comment Period**

- 177 ● One commenter agreed with the proposed recommendations but would suggest that  
178 any competencies and/or teaching materials consider this healthcare technology  
179 through a cost/benefit lens. My prior perspective was that this type of technology was  
180 extremely costly and therefore would be limited to individuals with very comprehensive  
181 health insurance coverage. If you factor in improved quality of care by delivering the  
182 right doses of medications initially, then perhaps this becomes less of an impediment to  
183 broader acceptance.  
184 ● Another commenter agreed with the five recommendations, noting that the first three  
185 will be easier to implement and #4 and #5 are longer term and challenging to execute.  
186 ● Another commenter noted that ethics and data security are important to consider in  
187 these recommendations. This topic would also work well for research projects and  
188 expand nursing knowledge, skills and attitudes.  
189 ● One commenter noted that inter-professional education about PH & G that does not  
190 make it into the report. It seems this could lead to a 6<sup>th</sup> bullet to explore avenues for  
191 inter-professional education. This is a practical suggestion since other professions may



192 be further ahead of nursing in this issue and the practice of PH&G would certainly be an  
193 inter-professional practice.

- 194
- 195 • ANA’s Individual Member Division supports the recommendations.
  - 196 • The Wisconsin Nurses Association support the revised recommendations are presented.
  - 197 • Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Precision Health and Genomics  
198 (PH&G) dialogue forum. It is understood from the background documents that ethics is  
199 an essential and foundational element of PH&G work. Additionally, ethics and privacy  
200 issues were mentioned in the live discussion on June 1st. Since the proposed  
201 recommendations are not exhaustive, it may be helpful to consider a statement that is  
202 explicit to message a firm grounding of this work in an ethics, privacy, and security  
203 framework. Thank you, again, for this work to elevate the practice of nursing and  
204 improve the health of individuals.

205 **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

- 206 1. ANA launch a strategic initiative to integrate Precision Health and Genomics (PH&G) into  
207 basic and advanced nursing practice. This would include but not be limited to:
- 208 a. Recognizing a framework grounded in ethics, privacy, security, and cost-  
209 effectiveness.
  - 210 b. Establishing entry level and advanced nursing competencies for Precision Health  
211 that will inform policy and practice recommendations.
  - 212 c. Updating the Genomic Nursing Competencies for Nurses with Graduate Degrees  
213 (the basic Genetic and Genomic Nursing Competencies [2006] are in the final  
214 phases of updating).
  - 215 d. Integrating the PH&G competencies into all nursing scopes and standards of  
216 practice inclusive of practice specialties.
  - 217 e. Assessing the state of PH&G Nursing capacity in the existing nursing workforce to  
218 inform an education initiative and provide the basis by which to measure  
219 outcomes.
  - 220 f. Addressing deficits in nursing knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSAs) uncovered  
221 in the PH&G nursing capacity assessment. This should include demonstration  
222 projects leading to evidence-based best practices underpinned by policy.
  - 223 g. Promoting intra-professional education and collaboration for the advancement  
224 of this knowledge and practice.

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226 **Background Document: [Precision Health and Genomics](#)**

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## 229 Dialogue Forum #3: APRN Full Practice in Nursing Homes

230 This Dialogue Forum topic was submitted by Marilyn Rantz, RN, PhD, FAAN and Lori Popejoy,  
231 RN, PhD, FAAN, both members of the Missouri Nurses Association.

232

### 233 Issue Overview

234 Nursing homes are in desperate need of transformation. APRNs working in nursing  
235 homes can tip the scales to transform critical systems of care in nursing homes so  
236 residents can get timely early illness recognition and management. There are current  
237 restrictions on APRN practice in nursing homes that need to be removed so they can be  
238 hired directly by nursing homes and also bill Medicare for care services that are billable  
239 under Medicare. Currently, physicians CAN be hired directly by nursing homes AND also  
240 bill Medicare for the care services they provide to the nursing home residents. However,  
241 APRNs are RESTRICTED from doing the same. This is an old, overlooked restriction that  
242 must be removed so that nursing home residents have unrestricted access to APRN  
243 care.

244

### 245 Summary of Dialogue Forum Discussions

- 246 • Attendees expressed significant support for this report and the proposed  
247 recommendation.
- 248 • There were several comments reflecting on the need to continue to advocate for full  
249 practice authority for APRNs to increase access to care and promote quality.
- 250 • There was some discussion related to the use of unlicensed personnel to provide  
251 medications in long term care facilities. The Professional Policy Committee considered  
252 this issue to be outside the purview of the initial policy submission.
- 253 • Several attendees raised questions and concerns about the proposed language included  
254 in Appendix 1. *Recommended Changes in Social Security Act 42 U.S.C. and Related*  
255 *Federal Regulations in CFR x483.40 for Access to Advanced Practice Registered Nurses*  
256 *(APRNs) for Nursing Facility Residents (pg. 8 – 1396r (b)(6)(A)-(B))*. This language speaks  
257 to requirements for collaboration or supervision with physicians and runs counter to  
258 existing requirements in states where APRNs have full practice authority.
- 259 • An attendee also suggested another approach could be a state-level opt out, like the opt  
260 out of physician anesthesia care. It was noted that in 2001, CMS changed the federal  
261 physician supervision rule for nurse anesthetists to allow state governors to opt out of  
262 the facility reimbursement requirements.
- 263 • It was noted that this change could have a significant, positive impact on access to care  
264 for critical access rural communities.
- 265 • It was also suggested that consideration be given to addressing the requirement that  
266 the medical director must be a physician.

267 As a result of comments noted on lines 163-172, the Professional Policy Committee revised the  
268 original recommendation to address the policy change being sought as opposed to the specific  
269 proposed language included in Appendix 1.

270

271 Initial recommendation proposed by submitters:

272 Advocate for the inclusion of the language "including those employed by the facility"  
273 when referring to an APRN working within a nursing home within CFR x483.40.

274 Appendix 1 outlines the recommended changes developed by faculty of the University  
275 of Missouri School of Law and is provided to assist in locating the language needing to  
276 be changed. Suggested wording is provided.

277

278 **Comment Period:**

279 • ANA's Individual Member Division (IMD) submits a comment noting that in order for the  
280 IMD to support the PPC Recommendation for Dialogue Forum #3: APRN Full Practice in  
281 Nursing Homes, the IMD respectfully requests that the recommendation be revised so  
282 that it reads: "The American Nurses Association advocates for change(s) in the Social  
283 Security Act and related Federal Regulations that would authorize the compensation of  
284 Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) employed directly by skilled nursing  
285 facilities for Medicare-billable services they provide to nursing home residents."

286 • The Wisconsin Nurses Association support the revised recommendations as presented.  
287 • Should consider allowing APRNs to serve as the medical directors of adult care homes.  
288 This would require ANA to continue to advocate for removal of barriers to care that  
289 APRNs face, such as removing the permission slip/collaborative practice agreement  
290 requirement.

291 It should be stated that APRN's should be allowed to receive the same reimbursement  
292 rate that a physician receives.

293 • I am fully in support of this initiative but wanted to suggest the following: If ANA is going  
294 to advocate for changes to CFR x483.40, perhaps we can also address a long standing  
295 problem with CFR x483.152, which relates to "Requirements for approval of a nurse aide  
296 training and competency evaluation program." This section requires that RN's seeking to  
297 be instructors for nursing assistant training programs must have one-year clinical  
298 experience in the long-term care setting. Section 5 (i) reads: "at least 1 year of which  
299 must be in the provision of long-term care facility services." This is an antiquated  
300 provision and severely limits the number of RNs who can qualify to teach in nurse aid  
301 training programs. NHNA tried to address this issue in 2019/2020 but efforts were  
302 sidelined due to the COVID-19 pandemic and limited resources of a small C/SNA. Lack of  
303 clinical instructors has limited the pipeline for new certified and/or licensed nursing  
304 assistants to support RNs and impact instruction programs all around the country.



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- I concur with the revised recommendation from the ANA PPC. Our country and our nursing home residents desperately need this legislation NOW!
  - ANA’s Department of Policy and Government Affairs noted that the proposed change regarding employment of APRNs and the ability to bill may be more appropriate for Medicaid regulation, as opposed to Medicare. Applying the language of the proposed resolution for Medicare SNF’s may require a statutory change in addition to the proposed regulatory changes. Policy/GOVA’s recommendation is to advance a resolution that states the general goal of removing barriers to practice in Medicare and Medicaid long-term services and support (including home and community-based care). Implementation of the current resolution or alternative could include development of a position statement that clarifies policy options.

316

317 **REVISED RECOMMENDATION proposed by the Professional Policy Committee:**

- 318 1. The American Nurses Association advocate for changes that would authorize APRNs to
- 319 directly bill for services provided for skilled nursing care, long-term care, and home and
- 320 community-based care, including those services provided as an employee.

321

322 **Background Document:** [APRN Full Practice in Nursing Homes](#)

323

324

325 **Dialogue Forum #4: Lessons Learned: COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis**

326 **Standards of Care**

327 This Dialogue Forum topic was prepared by the Professional Policy Committee.

328

329 *No recommendations were proposed by the Professional Policy Committee in advance of the*

330 *Dialogue Forum. In this report, the Professional Policy Committee proposes two*

331 *recommendations for consideration during the online comment period.*

332

333 **Issue Overview**

334 One of the greatest challenges encountered during the COVID-19 pandemic was

335 initiating a uniform, well-understood crisis standard of care when there were not

336 sufficient resources, either human or material, to meet patient care needs. While this is

337 likely inevitable in future events, particularly during a large-scale event of long duration,

338 there are strategies that can and should be implemented to mitigate the overall impact.

339 The focus of this Dialogue Forum is to receive feedback to inform ANA moving forward.

340

341 **Summary of the Dialogue Forum Discussion:**

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- There were multiple references to the need for education, for both students and as professional development, based on identified competencies to support future response

- 344 to disasters and pandemics. The profession needs all nurses to understand basic  
345 emergency response principles.
- 346 ○ Consider using FEMA coursework and the American Red Cross education  
347 modules.
  - 348 ○ It would be helpful to have a uniform protocol/policy allowing upper-level  
349 student nurses or new nurse graduates before licensure to do some limited  
350 pandemic response tasks such as vaccination without faculty supervision.
  - 351 ○ Would have been good to have “virtual touch bases” to share learnings in real  
352 time when there was little to no guidance.
  - 353 ○ All nurses need to engage in personal and professional preparation for  
354 responding to a disaster.
- 355 ● Several attendees spoke to the negative impact that the lack of trust on government  
356 and health care institutions had on the overall response and support for public health  
357 mitigation measures.
  - 358 ● Work environment issues raised:
    - 359 ○ Lack of staffing and in states with staffing committees the ability of facilities to  
360 put on hold staffing committee recommendations due to “emergency  
361 conditions.”
      - 362 ■ Hospitals have hired many high paid travel nurses to fix staffing holes.  
363 There are pros and cons to this. It is helping staffing, but some travel  
364 nurses are not motivated to learn hospital policies or get to know staff  
365 members which is harmful to patient care and unit cohesion.
    - 366 ○ Cross-training and the challenges of using non-ICU nurses in the ICU setting.  
367 Despite training and education, the staff were not confident on how to provide  
368 care.
    - 369 ○ Need more training about the movement into team-based models to delivering  
370 care during resource constraints.
    - 371 ○ Community plan to share staff from one hospital to another.
    - 372 ○ How to move staff from one state to another – we benefitted from outside  
373 nurses coming into our state in the beginning.
  - 374 ● Sufficient supplies of equipment:
    - 375 ○ Significant challenges with personal protective equipment (PPE), including re-use  
376 and decontamination.
    - 377 ○ There was PPE shortages in pandemic designated- and non-designated units;  
378 these challenges extended to supply chain issues contributing to access issues  
379 and increase purchasing costs. Highlighted was the need for entities outside of

- 380 the hospital system (primary care, remote, ACS) to have a connection to needed  
381 resources (PPE, vaccines, etc.).
- 382 ○ Need to look at policies related to national stockpile.
  - 383 ○ There were facilities “with resources” and those “without”, challenges with  
384 regard to equitably access – in the beginning there was some hoarding, then there  
385 was sharing, and then there was hoarding again.
  - 386 ○ Facility policies associated with how and when PPE could be accessed by  
387 employees.
  - 388 ○ Nurses were to speak up on PPE access. There was a disconnect to what leaders  
389 said was available versus what nurses reported.
- 390 ● Multiple commenters spoke to ongoing concerns about the mental health issues that  
391 nurses are currently experiencing and likely to experience into the future as a result of  
392 dealing with the pandemic.
    - 393 ○ Nurse-to-nurse sharing was critical.
    - 394 ○ Nurses are exhausted.
    - 395 ○ We have wonderful resources for self-care, but we cannot keep up the needed  
396 pace to continue with long-term disaster situations.
  - 397 ● One commenter noted that “crisis” standards of care seem to be for relatively short-  
398 term/emergencies, not weeks or months long emergent circumstances. There are  
399 significant qualitative and quantitative differences between the aftermath of a  
400 hurricane or tornado and the constant assault of a pandemic.
  - 401 ● It was also noted that state-level committees found that health systems that are  
402 generally in competition had a hard time working collaboratively to the detriment of  
403 decision-making. Nurses felt that sometimes the conversations were “too politically  
404 correct” and that they, as nurses, needed to become more forthright.
  - 405 ● One commenter noted that findings from a survey on crisis standards of care found that  
406 45% of the participants responded that they did not know if their crisis standards of care  
407 were up to date. Another interesting point was that 32% indicated that healthcare  
408 facilities did not actively communicate crisis standards of care guidance within their  
409 communities. Clear guidance on how to inform the staff and community about crisis  
410 standards of care needs to be part of developing future policy.
    - 411 ○ Did not know where to find the crisis standard of care plan.
  - 412 ● Consider a policy of presumption that nurses working clinically that acquire COVID were  
413 infected because of their work and also address financial compensation.
  - 414 ● Need to advocate for all nurses and caregivers across all areas. Hospice and other  
415 specialty areas were excluded from PPE allocations and were not included in waivers  
416 from CMS until much later in the year.

- 417 • It is important for everyone to also know and understand when it is time to return to  
418 the “normal standard.”
- 419 • Need to leverage the Code of Ethics for Nurses to underscore our obligation to protect  
420 ourselves and each other, our family members, and our patients from spread of  
421 infectious disease.
- 422 • Consideration needs to be given to how we will reintegrate patients back into the  
423 healthcare system. Our EDs are full and hospital census is at capacity and capability as  
424 we see those who did not receive care during the pandemic – these are sick patients.  
425 “Getting back to normal” does not look “normal” at all.
- 426 • Liability protections when there are changes in the standard of care.

427  
428 **Comment Period:**

- 429 • During the pandemic, many Crisis Standards of Care (CSC) were activated, in whole or in  
430 part, in states around the country. To ensure that a comprehensive understanding of  
431 the impact these CSCs had on care delivery, ANA should reach out to states which  
432 activated their CSC during the pandemic to explore some of their lessons learned. I  
433 recently attended a Project Echo for Emergency Care Providers to discuss their  
434 perspectives on CSC and how they were implemented within their organizations. As part  
435 of this Project Echo, a brief survey was conducted to see how CSC were perceived and  
436 how they impacted patient care. The results of this real-time survey were interesting.  
437 ANA could consider a similar approach for nurses, particularly those working in the ICU  
438 caring for COVID patients. Some of the questions that could be asked are: Did your  
439 organization implement CSC? In what areas were they implemented (vents, O2,  
440 medications, etc.)? Do you know the ethical underpinnings of your organization's CSC?  
441 Do you know how these underpinning relate to the Code of Ethics for Nurses?
  - 442 • Concur with the recommendations from the ANA PPC.
  - 443 • The discussion of this topic was very broad - not sure how the ANA Board would  
444 prioritize. Would suggest looking at the proposed National Coronavirus Commission Act  
445 of 2021 to help with focus, with emphasis on these areas: 1. the preparedness and  
446 response of specific types of institutions that experienced high rates of COVID-19,  
447 including hospitals, SNFs, assisted living and LTC; prisons, jails and immigration  
448 detention centers; elementary and secondary schools 2. management, allocation, and  
449 distribution of relevant resources including PPE, testing supplies and other medical  
450 equipment. And, of course, advocacy for nurses at all levels in all practice settings,  
451 including mental health care and COVID long haulers.
  - 452 • The Wisconsin Nurses Association support the recommendations as presented.
- 453

454 **Proposed recommendations from the Professional Policy Committee:**

- 455       1. ANA report back to the 2022 Membership Assembly on actions taken to further address  
456       crisis standards of care and advance the preparation of nurses and the profession to  
457       respond to future disasters and pandemics.
- 458       2. C/SNAs consider the information contained in the Committee’s report and encourage  
459       the LCEC to coordinate the sharing of innovations, best practices and lessons learned  
460       and request that the LCEC report back to the 2022 Membership Assembly on efforts at  
461       the state level to advance preparation for responding to disasters and pandemics.

462

463 **Background Document:** [Lessons Learned: COVID-19 Pandemic Crisis Standards of Care](#)

464