

Talking Points for Action Coalitions on Nurse Leadership

Nurses

If nurses want to guide health care system change, we must be prepared to serve in leadership positions, including governing boards.

- Having at least one nurse on a governing board provides valuable perspective to decision-makers and also personally and professionally benefits the nurses who serve.
- When nurses are valued members of organization leadership, we are better able to address the issues we care about, including to get people the care they need.

We need to prepare more nurses to manage health systems and lead health care transformation.

- One of the top recommendations in the 2010 Institute of Medicine Future of Nursing report is to prepare more nurses to lead from the bedside to the boardroom.
- We must also address the disparity in board members. For example, surveys of health care institutions have found that physicians served on more than 20 percent of governing boards while nurses served on less than 6 percent.

The Campaign for Action is working to position nurses as valued partners in health care improvement.

- Let's get off the decision-making sidelines by identifying leadership and policy board opportunities for nurses—and convince nurses of the importance of working toward these appointments.
- Nurses can learn more about how to pursue leadership roles at www.campaignforaction.org.

Hospitals, Nonprofits, and Policy Boards

Hospitals and policy organizations seeking to improve the quality and safety of care should appoint at least one nurse to their governing boards.

- The fiduciary responsibility of governing boards goes beyond financial health to include the quality and safety of care.
- Appointing nurses to governing boards ensures an important, valuable, and often underrepresented voice in decision-making.

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A growing number of health institutions recognize the importance of including nurses on their governing boards.

- Nurse leaders can balance the business of health care with clinical and patient outcomes. Hospitals that do not include nurses on their boards are missing this important perspective.
- Surveys of health care institutions have found that physicians served on more than 20 percent of governing boards while nurses served on less than 6 percent.

The *Campaign for Action* encourages public and private leadership boards to appoint nurses to help guide health care management and improvement.

- Nurse leaders can help to achieve reductions in medical errors, readmission rates, and falls and fatalities, all of which directly affect a hospital's bottom line.
- Board members who serve with nurses say they value discussions in which nurses and other clinicians can provide a frontline perspective.