

Attachment A

Florida Action Coalition: Key Messages

ALL AUDIENCES

Nursing practice is changing to deliver 21st century health care.

- The Florida Action Coalition is part of the nationwide Campaign for Action to implement the Future of Nursing recommendations made by the Institute of Medicine in 2010.
- The Florida Action Coalition is a nonpartisan collaboration of nurses, hospital administrators, university professors, state policymakers, nonprofit foundation executives, health insurance executives and business executives.
- The purpose of the Florida Action Coalition is to lead changes in nursing and health care delivery that will enable Floridians to access high quality, safe and patient-centered health care at a reasonable cost.
- Florida has three focus areas: education, leadership and practice.

Nursing care in the 21st century involves highly technical and complex systems.

- Florida nurses participate in life-long learning to ensure they have the training and experience needed to deliver 21st century nursing care.
- A highly trained and educated nurse workforce leads to system improvements and improves quality, accountability and coordination of care.
- Florida is working toward the IOM recommended goal of 80% of the registered nurse workforce having a four-year, baccalaureate in nursing (BSN) or higher degree by the year 2020.
- Florida is working to double the number of nurses with a doctorate (PhD/DNP/DNSc) by the year 2020.
- Florida is establishing more nursing residency programs to integrate new nurses in employer settings.

Nurses are high-level professionals with decision-making responsibilities at the bedside, as care providers, and in establishing standards for patient care.

- Nurses are the largest segment of the health care workforce and spend the most time with patients and families. They are vital to the successful transformation of health care.
- Nurses with strong clinical and leadership skills can help promote wellness, develop new models of care, manage coordination of care, and help hospitals to reduce medical errors and hospital readmissions.

The Florida Action Coalition is a resource for nurses seeking to develop leadership characteristics and to explore leadership opportunities.

- Nurses are essential partners with physicians and all health care providers in expanding access to care, ensuring quality and safety, and using limited resources wisely.

Nurses that have the ability to practice their profession to the fullest extent of their education and experience improve access to high-quality, patient-centered, cost-effective health care.

- Studies show that there is no difference in a patient's health outcome whether a family practice physician or an advanced registered nurse practitioner provides the care.
- Nurses practicing to the full extent of their knowledge and abilities are able to quickly respond to changes in a patient's condition to optimize healing and comfort.

NURSES, STUDENTS, NURSE ORGANIZATIONS & NURSE LEADERS

A work environment with a higher proportion of BSN nurses is one that promotes safe and high quality care resulting in excellent patient outcomes and high job satisfaction.

- Higher level education opens more career opportunities.
- There is increasing evidence of employers encouraging advanced nurse degrees and/or preferentially hiring nurses with a BSN.

Nurses are essential in shaping nursing practice and health care in the 21st century.

- Your voice is needed to inform policies and procedures that impact patient care and nursing practice.
- You can be part of the decision-making process by taking a leadership role within your organization and community.
- Nurses demonstrate leadership in many ways, such as advocating on behalf of their patients – every nurse can be a leader.
- The Florida Action Coalition identifies leadership opportunities and the skills you need to be a leader.

Be involved in the process to change rules governing nursing practice.

- When nurses are able to fully practice to the full extent of their professional education, you will have both the responsibility and authority to make decisions and act upon them for the patient's best interest.
- With backing from the national Campaign for Action, led by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and AARP, the Florida Action Coalition is speaking with one voice in Florida for all nurses to practice to the full extent of their education and experience.

EMPLOYERS, POLICY MAKERS & LEGISLATORS

BSN prepared nurses provide high quality, safe patient care and improve patient outcomes.

- Studies show reduced patient mortality and morbidity rates when acute care is staffed with a highly educated nursing workforce.
- Highly educated nurses are well-positioned to implement complex changes in the health care system and measure outcomes to meet new payment and reimbursement requirements.
- Create opportunities for students to complete higher degrees so more doctoral level prepared nurses are qualified to teach the next generation of nurses.

Include nurses in leadership positions, especially when developing policies and procedures that impact patient care and nursing practice.

- Incorporate nursing knowledge into operational decision-making for improved efficiency, safety and quality in patient care.

Revising regulations to enable nurses to practice to the full extent of their knowledge and experience will improve Floridians' access to high quality health care at a reasonable cost.

- The Florida Action Coalition is a nonpartisan collaborative speaking with one voice to achieve change in health care policy for the good of Floridians.
- The ability of all direct care providers to practice to the full extent of their education is critical to meet the challenges of providing access to quality care for all, especially with the implementation of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

PHYSICIANS

Through inter-professional education and collaboration, better coordinated care, and a partnership between physicians and nurses, we can all use our skills and resources more wisely and better meet the needs of patients.

- Nurses are essential partners with physicians in expanding access to care, ensuring quality and safety, and using limited resources wisely.
- Increased demand will mean that more and sicker patients are looking for care providers and with a shortage of providers, all clinicians need to be able to practice to the full extent of their education and training.

The Florida Action Coalition is Co-Lead by:



For more information, please refer people to our website at:
www.FLCenterForNursing.org/FLActionCoalition