



CREATING A CULTURE OF QUALITY

Partnering In Care: Improving Quality Outcomes through Collaborative Practices

This presentation was developed recognizing that Networks and the American Nephrology Nurses Association share a common vision: improving the quality of care that our patients receive. Efforts to collaborate within the nephrology community are multiple. ANNA Chapters can provide assistance with education, developing subject matter experts and within the Learning Action Networks, leading to improved quality of care and patient safety.

Organization Name: American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA)

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Project objectives, purpose and goals: To develop a broadened scope of collaboration between the ESRD Networks and the American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA)

Setting: Individual Networks often work with the ANNA Continuing Education Approver Board (CEAB) to develop educational programs for their Network. Since ANNA Chapters and the ESRD Networks are regional, often ANNA Chapter members and Network members interact.

Sample: An analysis of 2011-2012 educational submissions for approval to award contact hours to the CEAB of ANNA and found that 7 Networks had submitted applications for approval. It was also noted that in some instances, Chapters and Networks collaborated to submit for approval to award contact hours. In several instances, Chapters invited and had ESRD Network members attend and present at their meetings. There are 18 ESRD Networks and over 100 ANNA Chapters currently. While collaboration is evident, it is not consistent.

Process Studied: The Institute of Medicine (IOM) 2010 report entitled "Redesigning Continuing Education in the Health Professions" speaks to providing a better approach to continuing professional development and a framework upon which to develop a new, more effective system. The collaborative effort of the Network and the Chapters of ANNA would result in a best practice, demonstrating that, "developing a system of continuing professional development supports health professionals in achieving the goal of high quality, safe health care." ANNA Chapters are composed of local nephrology nurses committed to providing patient centered care. Nephrology nurses are uniquely positioned to participate as members of Network committees and can assist Networks in identifying patients to serve as SME and ensure that the patient voice is including in planning. Nephrology nurses will be critical members of Learning Activity Networks (LAN) and the chapters within each Network area provide a venue to access nurses from various geographic regions within that Network. Nephrology nurses also serve as a key dissemination point to educate other members of the health care team on such issues such as HAI or to interact with the NSHN data entry system.

Intervention: To identify currently how many ANNA Chapters interact with the ESRD Network by providing a skill, practice, knowledge or time. A poll will be performed in the first week of October 2012 of ANNA Chapter presidents and president's elect to determine how many currently interact with the Network. The data would then be collected, and replicated in October 2013 in an effort to determine any increased collaboration between the ESRD Network and the ANNA Chapters.

Evaluation: The Study Question would be as follows: Did providing the ESRD Network and the ANNA Chapters with information on how to collaborate result in an increase in ANNA nurses providing a skill, practice, knowledge or time to the ESRD Network?

Conclusions and Recommendations: The process of interaction between the ESRD Networks and the ANNA Chapters appears to vary among Networks and ANNA Chapters. Strengthening the interaction between ESRD Networks and ANNA Chapters can improve both patient safety and health care quality. This collaborative effort to have ANNA Chapters and members provide skills, practice, knowledge and time would result in a best practice, achieving the goal of high quality, safe health care.