

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
February 27, 2014

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This release is available online at www.aacn.org/news

Solving the Puzzle of Fragmented Care: Groundbreaking New Course Standardizes Care Coordination and Transition Management Competencies and Education for Nurses

Pitman, NJ – Getting health care today can feel like putting together a complicated puzzle without all of the pieces. The [American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing](http://www.aacn.org) (AAACN) has a solution: a course and core curriculum text for registered nurses on care coordination and transition management; a new frontier of patient care that can improve outcomes, lower costs, and enhance the patients' experience of care.

Health care providers working together to give the right care at the right time in the right setting is the goal of care coordination. To educate, standardize, and ensure excellence in patient care, AAACN created the groundbreaking, evidence-based [Care Coordination and Transition Management](#) (CCTM) course and core curriculum text. Developed by an expert panel of nurses and spearheaded by longtime AAACN leaders Sheila A. Haas, PhD, RN, FAAN, Beth Ann Swan, PhD, CRNP, FAAN, and Traci S. Haynes, MSN, RN, BA, CEN, this course is a vital guide to the state of research evidence for care coordination and transition management.

"Health care delivery has shifted, and nurses provide care across multiple settings and providers rather than onsite and in person," said CCTM co-creator and AAACN past president, Beth Ann Swan, PhD, CRNP, FAAN. "This groundbreaking course and core curriculum respond to the demand for needed competencies for care coordination and transition management, and is a must-have, one-of-a-kind resource for nurses to demonstrate their unique contributions to patient-centered care quality and safety."

Available through [the AAACN website](#), the self-learning CCTM course includes 13 online modules and a PDF version of the corresponding core text chapter. The course will provide approximately 20-30 contact hours.

To introduce nurses to the value and wealth of education available in the complete course, AAACN is offering the first CCTM Introduction module **free to all nurses**, including 2.4 contact hours. [Click here to access the first module.](#)

The core curriculum text, available in May 2014, is a compilation of the work of a large team of ambulatory care and acute care nurse experts representing practice, education, and research. Chapters feature the following dimensions and activities:

- Advocacy
- Education and engagement of patients and families
- Coaching and counseling of patients and families
- Patient-centered care planning
- Support for self-management
- Nursing process: proxy for monitoring and evaluation
- Teamwork and collaboration
- Cross setting communications and care transitions
- Population health management
- CCTM between acute care to ambulatory care

- Informatics nursing practice
- Telehealth nursing practice

Each chapter is organized to include definitions, a table of knowledge, skills, and attitudes (KSAs), and the CCTM core competencies for interprofessional collaborative practice.

The course and core text are applicable to all nurses who coordinate care and manage transitions in any setting, from ambulatory care to hospitals. In fact, AAACN invited the [Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses](#) (AMSN) to collaborate in the development of the content, further validating the all-encompassing nature of care coordination and transition management.

“The identified care coordination dimensions and competencies, and the evidence that supports them will provide ambulatory nurses and all nurses with the tools to develop and enhance their skills in coordinating care and managing transitions,” said AAACN President Susan Paschke, MSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC. “This course will help nurses across the continuum of health care solve the puzzle of fragmented care and ensure that the patients’ needs and expectations for quality are met or exceeded.”

The complete course consists of 13 online learning modules and is available for \$995, with a discount available for AAACN members (\$595). The CCTM core curriculum text will be available in May 2014 for \$99 (\$79 for AAACN members) in the [AAACN store](#). To purchase the CCTM course, visit aaacn.org/cctm.

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The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) is a welcoming, unifying community for registered nurses in all ambulatory care settings. Our mission is to advance the art and science of ambulatory care nursing.