AAACN Sets Scope and Standards for Care Coordination and Transition Management

New publication is first formal statement for professional nurses in this role.

PITMAN, NJ – Successfully coordinating patient care is a key strategy to improving patient outcomes and reducing overall costs, yet this process differs from one facility to the next. Today, the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) creates a foundation of practice by publishing the first Scope and Standards of Practice for Registered Nurses in Care Coordination and Transition Management.

“If the goal of care coordination and transition management is to prevent patients from falling through the cracks, it is critical that there are national, formal standards in place,” said Nancy May, MSN, RN-BC, NEA-BC, and president of the AAACN. “We’ve set the standards for care coordination, and our goal is to continue advocating for this vital role for registered nurses to advance the health of our patients and communities.”

Written for acute and ambulatory care nurses by a task force of nurses and nurse leaders, the scope and standards addresses both the clinical and management dimensions of care coordination and transition management (CCTM). It also includes a framework for developing the interprofessional health care team and guides institutions and professional staff on policies, procedures, role descriptions and competencies. This new publication is an indispensable resource for nurses as well as nurse leaders who want to educate and mobilize their care coordination teams.

Additional CCTM resources from AAACN are the Core Curriculum and the CCTM Online Course.

A new Certified in Care Coordination and Transition Management (CCCTM) exam has been developed in collaboration with the Medical-Surgical Nursing Certification Board. The exam is for nurses who have practiced in the CCTM role for a minimum of two years and are ready to earn their CCCTM credential.

Leading the industry in educating and defining nursing practice areas is not a new role for AAACN. The association previously set the scope and standards for telehealth practice and the ambulatory care nursing specialty.

“We knew CCTM resources were urgently needed, so they are now in place for nurses to better perform their role in this important practice area,” May said. "The new Scope and Standards brings all the pieces of the puzzle together.”

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The American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing (AAACN) is an association of registered nurses and other health care professionals who identify ambulatory care practice as essential to the continuum of high quality, cost-effective health care. As the premier nursing organization for this specialty, AAACN is devoted to advancing the art and science of ambulatory care nursing.