

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF THE REDUCTION OF UNNECESSARY NOISE IN HEALTH CARE FACILITIES

SUBMITTED BY: New Jersey Nursing Students, Inc.

WHEREAS, Florence Nightingale stated that unnecessary noise is the most cruel abuse of care which can be inflicted on either the sick or the well; and

WHEREAS, the hospital noise levels have been consistently rising since the 1960's; and

WHEREAS, federal workplace safety standards cite 85 decibels as the safe maximum level of noise exposure; and

WHEREAS, peak hospital noise levels can often be greater than 90 decibels; and

WHEREAS, patients exposed to continuous extraneous noise can experience altered memory, increased agitation, decreased pain tolerance, feelings of isolation, sleep deprivation, and may have higher implications for high blood pressure and heart attack; and

WHEREAS, high noise levels may cause decreased oxygen saturation, increased blood pressure, increased heart rate, increased respiratory rate and worsened sleep for infants and induces similar responses in adults; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its constituents to support and encourage healthcare facilities to promote noise reduction through, but not limited to, quietly giving nursing report, addressing alarms and call bells promptly, speaking softly in hallways, implementing quiet time especially during change of shift, provide earphones for patient televisions, display noise reminder signs for staff and visitors throughout departments; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA educate its constituents about this issue through articles in *Imprint* and focus sessions at Mid Year and Annual conventions, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the American Medical Association, the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations, the American Association of Critical Care Nurses, the American Nurses Credentialing Magnet Recognition Program, the American Hospital Association, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.