

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING EDUCATION, AWARENESS AND IDENTIFICATION OF PREVENTABLE PRESSURE ULCERS

SUBMITTED BY: Maurine Church Coburn School of Nursing and Salisbury University Student Nurses' Association

WHEREAS, pressure ulcers are localized damage or lesions to the underlying tissues caused by external pressure or friction; and

WHEREAS, "in US acute care facilities alone, an estimated 2.5 million pressure ulcers are treated each year;" and

WHEREAS, pressure ulcers cause considerable harm to patients, hinder recovery, cause pain, and may result in the development of serious infections, and are also associated with extended lengths of stay and patient mortality; and

WHEREAS, in fiscal year 2007, there were 257,412 cases of stage III and IV ulcers with an average cost of \$43,180 per hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will no longer reimburse hospitals for care of preventable injuries and complications such as pressure ulcers; therefore be it

WHEREAS, most pressure ulcers are preventable; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) promote awareness of preventable pressure ulcers; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support and encourage its constituents to advocate for identification and prevention of pressure ulcers in healthcare centers; and be it further

RESOLVED that the NSNA encourage the inclusion of education about pressure ulcer prevention in nursing curricula, particularly educating nursing students about risk factors and specific preventative methods; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish information about this issue in *Imprint* magazine, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association, the American Organization of Nurse Executives, the National Gerontological Nursing Association, the Oncology Nursing Society, the American Hospital Association, the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, the National Pressure Ulcer Advisory Panel, the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research, the Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses, the Emergency Nurses' Association, the Institute for Healthcare Improvement, the Joint Commission, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Wound, Ostomy, and Continence Nurses Society and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.