

**TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASING AWARENESS FOR STANDARDIZED PATIENT CARE HAND-OFF**

**SUBMITTED BY: Ohio Nursing Student's Association**

WHEREAS, "handoff communication has been identified as a key contributor to patient safety risks. Ineffective handoffs are directly linked to adverse events and poor outcomes"; and

WHEREAS, the goals of the Joint Commission are to improve the effectiveness of communication among caregivers and to enforce the implementation of a standardized approach to "hand-off" communications; and

WHEREAS, the Joint Commission now requires that a facility demonstrate it has a process to ensure adequate transfer of information about a patient's condition and treatment, including allergies, current or potential problems, medications, and the stability of vital signs; and

WHEREAS, 50% of 1,400 individuals involved in patient hand-off believed that handoff gaps existed at their facilities, specifically deficiencies of lost and problematic information exchanges; and

WHEREAS, the Institute of Medicine reported that over 98,000 deaths occurred annually due to ineffective patient transfer handoff reports; and

WHEREAS, ineffective communication is the most frequently cited category of root causes of sentinel events; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) promote increased awareness among its constituents about the importance of standardized patient care hand-off; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support the implementation of a standardized patient care hand-off in healthcare facilities; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to raise further awareness about this issue by publishing articles in *Imprint* magazine, if feasible, and providing focus sessions about patient safety initiatives such as the standardized patient care hand-off at the NSNA MidYear Conference and Annual Convention, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to support continuing research on the benefit of passing consistent and concise information from one shift nurse or hospital employee to the next; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the National League for Nursing, the Joint Commission, the National Institute of Health, the Sentinel Event Advisory Board, the National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the Honor Society of Nursing, Sigma Theta Tau International, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.