

## White Paper from a Professional Nursing Organization

### **# 1 Overview and Summary of the white paper**

The white paper explores the issue of care coordination, which has been proposed as a solution to the majority of the problems ailing the American health care such as uneven quality, high costs, and poor patient outcomes. Although, America enjoys the most resources dedicated to the health care per capital, the fragmented nature of the system is usually typified by communication failures and redundant healthcare tests and services. This yields to elevated risk of error and increase in costs, which informs the aim of the white paper, which seeks to align the numerous elements of the US health care to serve the institutions, the people, and the patients that use them.

The white paper highlights the qualitative and quantitative achievement of advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) and registered nurse in care coordination. The white paper focuses on recent reports and studies, which have documented results involving registered nurses engaged in care coordination (American Nurses Association, 2012). The efficacy of registered nurses within care coordination functions has been apparent in many health care reform initiatives seeking integrative service delivery. Some of the effects of care coordination include reduced overall charges, decreased medication costs, reduced emergency department visits, improved savings per patient, and enhanced patient satisfaction and quality of care.

### **# 2 The Position Adopted by the White Paper**

The white paper advocates for increased care coordination, which it regards as a bridge to improve patients' care outcomes, foster effective inter-professional collaboration, and reduce costs across health care settings and patient populations. In order to exploit the value of care

coordination, the white paper roots for more research in the area to develop quality measures and understanding of best practices of efficient care coordination. The paper also calls for improvement in RN's education by integrating care coordination with an emphasis on team-based (inter-professional) care (Fero, Herrick, & Hu, 2011). Such measures are likely to entrench care coordination and improve healthcare efficiencies.

### **# 3 The Link between the White Paper and Healthcare Reform**

The white paper is connected to healthcare reform at both national and state level highlighting the need for care coordination to improve healthcare delivery. Care coordination can be regarded as foundational to the health reform objectives of enhancing the quality of care for communities and individuals through efficient utilization of resources. Indeed, the Affordable Care Act (ACA) cites care coordination throughout its provisions to control costs and improve the quality of patient care, which dominates the American health care delivery system (Huber, 2014). The white paper appreciates and fosters the integral function played by registered nurses within the care coordination process in an effort to reduce costs and improve patient care quality and outcomes.