

MNA 114<sup>th</sup> Annual Convention  
“Nurses Making Change to Improve Care”  
Thursday, October 5, 2017  
Martins West, Baltimore, Maryland

## WHITE PAPER

SUBMITTED BY: Brandy Brown, RN-BC  
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Research/EBP       Literature Review       Best Practice       Policy Statement

### Redefining the Antibiotic Stewardship Team: Recommendations from the American Nurses Association/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Workgroup on the Role of Registered Nurses in Hospital Antibiotic Stewardship Practices

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**Identified Gap** (Why is this topic being addressed?) The purpose of this American Nurses Association/Centers for Diseases Control and Prevention (ANA/CDC) White Paper is to inform registered nurses in the United States about the problem of antibiotic resistance and facilitate their embracing the expanded and clearly recognized role in hospital antibiotic stewardship programs (ASPs) and activities.

**Description of the Current State** The need to improve antibiotic use is fundamentally a patient safety issue. Using conservative estimates, the CDC figured that each year more than two million Americans develop serious infections with bacteria that are resistant to one or more antibiotics, and at least 23,000 people die each year as a direct result of these infections. According to the CDC report, improving antibiotic use is one of the most important needs in reducing antibiotic resistance.

**Desired Outcomes** (What should happen as a result of the information presented) Both CDC and The Joint Commission specifically highlight the need to engage nurses as part of the multidisciplinary effort.

**Abstract/Content** Improving antibiotic use is a patient safety issue. As frontline providers, nurses can become more engaged and take a leadership role to enhance a hospital’s antibiotic stewardship program (ASP). The nurses’ role with patient and family at the hub of communication among all stakeholders in antibiotic delivery puts nurses in a unique and vital position to optimize antibiotic use. The ANA/CDC

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Workgroup outlined key priorities: publish a joint position statement, identify and incorporate national nursing standards and metrics, identify educational gaps, and develop resources for nurses to seamlessly engage in hospital ASPs. Nurses represent a powerful voice and cohort by which to mold interdisciplinary ASPs, enhancing patient safety and minimizing the spread of antibiotic resistance.

### Current References

- CDC, (2013). Antibiotic resistance threats in the United States. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services. Available from: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugresistance/threat-report-2013>
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