



ISSUE 1

VOLUME 1

November 2009

Office of Nursing Services (108) | VA Central Office | 810 Vermont Ave NW | Washington DC 20420

Clinical Practice Program

~Providing guidance on clinical nursing practice and support for field-based operations and VHA priorities~

The Clinical Practice Program was developed by the Office of Nursing Services to support nursing clinical practice, develop policies in coordination with other VHA program offices and to disseminate communication to the field. The program is made up of seven field advisory committees (FACs) in the following specialties: Cardiovascular, Geriatrics and Extended Care, Mental Health, Metabolic Syndrome/Diabetes, Oncology, Perioperative and recently added Polytrauma Rehabilitation.

Each FAC consists of a clinical nurse advisor and a committee made up of field-based nurses who serve a two-year rotation on the committee. The FACs are charged to assist Clinical Nurse Advisors in:

1. Aligning work of assigned patient populations with National Nursing Strategic Goals/Objectives.
2. Identifying/developing recommendations for:
 - a. best practice, practice guidelines, patient care standards, and policy guidance
 - b. staff and patient /caregiver training and educational priorities
 - c. support tools for documentation, references
 - d. research agenda for clinical inquiries
 - e. publications and appropriate mechanisms for dissemination of best practices
 - f. potential oversight functions needed in the field in the area of focus

The Clinical Practice Program Steering Committee provides guidance and oversight for the program to ensure dissemination of VHA program offices in developing policy.

Oncology Field Advisory Committee

Christine Engstrom, PhD, CRNP, AOCN® serves in a dual role as the Clinical Practice Program Manager and as the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Oncology Field Advisory Committee (FAC). In addition to her roles as manager and advisor, Chris also serves as the Women's Health Program Manager for the Office of Nursing Services. She also maintains a clinical practice once a week at the Baltimore VA Medical Center.

The Oncology FAC has 17 members and are currently working on or involved in the following projects: revisions to Lippincott's Online Nursing Procedures for Administration of Blood Products and Transfusion Reaction Management, published online May 2009; participation in Blood Products Cross Functional Team; Design of a web-based Oncology Nursing Handbook/Competencies with the Oncology Nursing Society (ONS) and VA Employee Education Services (EES); and testing and validation of nursing sensitive indicators with ONS and Office of Quality and Performance (OQP).



Christine Engstrom, PhD, CRNP, AOCN®

Cardiovascular Field Advisory Committee

Marthe Moseley, PhD, RN, CCRN, CCNS, CNL is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Cardiovascular Field Advisory Committee. Dr. Moseley is a Clinical Nurse Specialist in Critical Care at the San Antonio VA Medical Center. Her areas of expertise include clinical competencies and evidence-based practice (EBP). Dr. Moseley has clinical interest in all aspects of critical care, with particular expertise in hemodynamics, cardiac and EKG. Her clinical practice covers four ICU environments: SICU, CCU, MICU and Medical Progressive Care Unit

The Cardiovascular FAC currently has 13 members from the field. Current workgroups and projects include Anticoagulation Learning Modules for LMS, Electrode Placement for 12-Lead ECG and Cardiac Monitoring. Members of the FAC also serve on and support national workgroups such as: Biomed Implant Registry, CHF Queri Project, Cross-Functional Team for Blood Administration and SNOWMED-CT.



**Marthe Moseley, PhD, RN,
CCRN, CCNS, CNL**

Geriatrics & Extended Care Field Advisory Committee

Garett Schreier, MSN, RN is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Geriatric Extended Care Field Advisory Committee. He is also the Associate Chief of Nursing Services for Geriatrics and Extended Care at the Lebanon VA Medical Center in Pennsylvania. Garett has a Bachelors of Science in Nursing from York College of Pennsylvania and a Masters of Science in Nursing from the University of Phoenix. Garett is a U.S. Navy Veteran and serves as a reservist in the Navy Nurse Corps.

The Geriatric Extended Care Field Advisory Committee (FAC) has 15 members. Their current projects and national workgroups include: Community Living Centers (CLCs), Dental Hygiene Pilot, Nurse Competency Program, Anticoagulation, TBI/Polytrauma/Professional Education and Adult Day Care.



Garett Schreier, MSN, RN

Metabolic Syndrome/Diabetes Field Advisory Committee

Linda Haas, PhC, RN, CDE is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Metabolic Syndrome / Diabetes Field Advisory Committee. Linda is an Endocrinology Nurse Specialist at the VA Puget Sound Health Care Division in Seattle, WA. She also serves as a Clinical Assistant Professor in the Department of Biobehavioral Nursing and Health Systems at the University of Washington in Seattle. Linda is a member of the American Nurses Association task force on Diabetes Nursing, a professional member of the American Diabetes Association, and the American Association of Diabetes Educators and has served as president of both organizations.

The Metabolic Syndrome/Diabetes Field Advisory Committee has 8 members and their current projects / workgroups include: learning module development for discharge planning / post-discharge care of diabetic patients, hypoglycemia protocol implementation, and the IPEC Diabetes inpatient evaluation.



Linda Haas, PhC, RN, CDE

Perioperative Field Advisory Committee

Lisa Warner, RN, BSN, MHA is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Perioperative Field Advisory Committee. Lisa is a nurse manager in the OR, PACU and Same Day Surgery units at the Phoenix VAMC. She serves as the Chairperson for the OR Nurse Manager Advisory Board for Patient Care Services and is a member of the VISN 18 SPD TAG Committee.

The Perioperative Field Advisory Committee (FAC) has 10 members and is currently involved in or working on the following projects: Surgical Ward Competency Assessment development, Perioperative Pressure Ulcer Prevention Program tools for staff, providing guidance and support for Surgical Implant registry, and the work to develop standard operating procedures and competencies for reprocessing, set-up and use of reusable medical equipment for National VHA Directive. The Perioperative FAC is also working with DoD, the American Pain Society and the American Society of Anesthesiologists to develop post-operative pain guidelines.



Lisa Warner, MHA, RN, BSN

Polytrauma Field Advisory Committee

Mary Susan Biggins, RN, BSN, MBA is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Polytrauma Field Advisory Committee. Sue is the Polytrauma Clinical Nurse Educator at the Hines VA Hospital, providing education to patients, families and staff. She collaborated in the development of the Family Support Group and the Interdisciplinary TBI Clinic. Prior to this role, she served as Clinical Nurse Manager for a twenty-eight bed acute care Spinal Cord Injury CARF Accredited Unit, which included rehabilitation of new injury OEF/OIF patients. Sue received her Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is a member of the AASCIN, BIAI and ARN.

The Polytrauma Field Advisory Committee will consist of 16-20 members, representative of all aspects of Polytrauma Rehabilitation and all roles serving those veterans. Projects and workgroups will include Polytrauma Nursing Competencies and Guidelines, Dissemination of Best Practices in admission process, Patient/Caregiver education, training and reintegration support and staff certification in CRRN and CBIS.



Mary Sue Biggins, MBA, RN, BSN

Mental Health Field Advisory Committee

Suzanne Thorne-Odem, MS, RN is the Clinical Nurse Advisor for the Mental Health Field Advisory Committee. She has worked at the VA for 23 years. Suzy provides additional support for projects and activities in the Office of Nursing Services Clinical Practice Program. She has a passion for forensic nursing and has been practicing in this role for eight years. She is assisting in the development and expansion of the forensic nurse role in the VA.

The Mental Health Field Advisory Committee (FAC) has 20 members. Their current projects and workgroups include: Inpatient and Outpatient MH Nursing Competencies, National Skin Integrity Assessment Workgroup, Develop/Distribute Staff Nurse Guides for Patient Groups, Design/Distribute fact sheets for MH staff nurses, pain management for mental health patients, initiating a Mental Health Nursing Leaders mailgroup for the Office of Nursing Services and promoting and publicizing national certification for mental health nurses through the Office of Nursing Services "Let's Get Certified" Campaign.



Suzanne Thorne-Odem, MS, RN