The future of nursing: Leading change, advancing health

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Abstract: With more than three million members, the nursing profession is the largest segment of the nation’s health care workforce. Working on the front lines of patient care, nurses can play a vital role in helping realize the objectives set forth in the 2010 Affordable Care Act, legislation that represents the broadest health care overhaul since the 1965 creation of the Medicare and Medicaid programs. A number of barriers prevent nurses from being able to respond effectively to rapidly changing health care settings and an evolving health care system. These barriers need to be overcome to ensure that nurses are well-positioned to lead change and advance health.

1) Nurses should practice to the full extent of their education and authority.

In 2010, the IOM released The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health with the purpose of producing a report that would make recommendations for an action-oriented blueprint for the future of nursing. ANA was gratified to find that many of the elements and recommendations of the IOM Report on the Future of Nursing were reflected in the ongoing work to advance the nursing profession. ANA and the ANA constituent state nurses’ associations have engaged in a wide range of activities over time that support the evidence-based recommendations of the IOM. (see document below)