



Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nursing

New Approach to Treating Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal Shows Promise

First Election for Delegate to ANA Membership Assembly

Presidents Letter: Membership votes to revise bylaws.



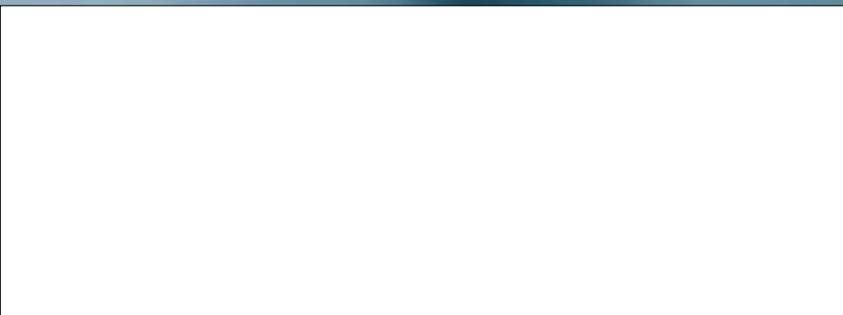


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2 Leach MJ. Calendula officinalis and wound healing: A systematic review. *Wounds*, 2008; 20(8): 1-7.



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Navigating the Nurse Licensure Compact: Acknowledging the Pitfalls and Working to Remedy

Erica Bell, MBA, BSN, RN, PCCN, CCRN, Director of Nursing Practice

Brittany Turner, MSN, RN, CNEcl, NPd-BC, Director of Continuing Education

The nurse licensure compact (NLC), also known as multistate license (MSL), went into effect in January 2023 and brought with it some potentially unintended consequences. The advertising around the nurse licensure compact has been filled with the potential benefits, but we've seen little about potential consequences. Being aware of both the positives and negatives of the NLC allows nurses to be prepared for impacts they may see in their practice environment.

Staffing Shortages

The nurse licensure compact advertising has leaned hard on the promotion of increased staffing for Kansas, while decreasing the staffing shortage. Florida and Arizona are examples of two states that are part of the compact and continue to experience nursing shortages. According to a survey conducted by The Florida Hospital Association, a deficit of 59,100 nurses in Florida is projected by 2035.

(DeLisa, 2022) Arizona is continuing to push for assistance from its lawmakers to assist with its nursing shortage. As of January 2022, Arizona was estimated to need more than 6,200 nurses to meet the demand. (Bryan, 2022) Many other states within the compact are also experiencing debilitating nursing shortages despite being part of the compact.

What Nurses Can Do:

Don't cite the NLC as a solution to the nurse shortage in Kansas, as it may lead to a decrease in efforts that will improve

the shortage under the fallacy that the NLC solves the issue. Continue to advocate for change that will improve staffing and retention of nurses in Kansas. Also, don't allow employers to use the NLC as an excuse to stop working on staffing.

Disaster/Emergency Staffing

Another promotion surrounding the nurse licensure compact is that it will allow for Kansas to receive additional nursing staff sooner in the event of a disaster or emergency. Kansas law already allowed nurses to practice in the state without an Kansas license if a state of emergency was declared. (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2020) The Kansas Board of Nursing was also expediting the issuance of temporary permits during the declared state of emergency. (National Conference of State Legislatures, 2020) So, the promotion of this thought isn't fully accurate. Despite nurses being able to practice in Kansas without an Kansas license during the declared state of emergency, Kansas is still experiencing an excessive staffing shortage.

What Nurses Can Do:

Remember this information and communicate it when needed. Also, make sure others are aware that the Kansas Board of Nursing will still issue nursing licenses for nurses not residing in Kansas (license by reciprocity), meaning, that just because a nurse isn't a member of a compact state and doesn't hold a

compact license, doesn't mean there is a barrier to working in Kansas.

Continuing Education

Kansas takes pride in requiring its nurses to take continuing education to maintain their license. Continuing education ensures nurses stay up to date on the everevolving world of healthcare. It also plays a significant role in improving patient outcomes. Continuing education is extremely important in improving or maintaining skills, knowledge, and practice; however, it is not nationally mandated. There are states that do not require nurses to take continuing education to renew their licenses, and several of those states are within the compact.

States within the compact that do not require continuing education are: Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Indiana, Maine, Mississippi, Missouri, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin. (AMN Healthcare Education Services, 2023) The nurse licensure compact will allow for nurses, without recent professional development, from these states to practice in Kansas. This could pose risks for our patients and communities.

What Nurses Can Do:

To advocate for safety of our Kansas patients, first be aware that nurses practicing in Kansas are fully responsible for knowing and abiding by our law and rules; they are also required to review information provided by the employer about 4723 ORC and OAC. Hold your fellow nurses accountable for safe



practice as outlined in the Kansas Nurse Practice Act. Further, be a resource and help increase knowledge of any education or professional development opportunities available in your setting.

Outsourcing Care

Healthcare facilities have been working to replace personalized care by a registered nurse at the bedside with virtual/computerized healthcare. (Minnesota Nurses Association, 2023) This can pose challenges to Kansas's rural communities and potentially lead to more hospital closures as visits and revenues leave the facility. (Minnesota Nurses Association, 2023)

What Nurses Can Do:

Advocate for personalized care, fight reduction of services in rural communities, and proclaim the value of nursing care for Kansans. Being involved in your association is a great way to start this kind of advocacy work and ensure that your voice is heard.

Labor Trafficking

This is a topic that does not receive the publicization it should. "As of June 2022, Kansas ranks fifth for human trafficking

incidents. However, the state's rate of human trafficking is about 3.84 victims per 100,000 residents, putting Kansas at the fourth worst ratio in the nation." (Human Trafficking Courts, 2023) Labor trafficking falls within these statistics and nurses are not immune to this. Most recently a lawsuit was filed in the Southern District of Kansas on February 17, 2023, against Health Care Facility Management, LLC, doing business as CommuniCare Family Companies. CommuniCare is a labor recruiter and staffing company that hires nurses to work in its healthcare facility-clients all over the United States. The compact poses some questions regarding companies such as this one being more easily able to traffic nurses across the nation. Minnesota Nurses Association. (2023). Outsourcing care: What Nurses Can Do: Become educated on what nurse labor trafficking looks like, ensure your facility has organizational policies in effect that protect foreign and out-of-state nurses whether employed directly or indirectly by your organization. The ONA Human Trafficking Awareness Symposium 2023 will focus on exactly these topics and anyone who needs this information

is encouraged to attend. Watch ONA's social media for more information.

Conclusion

The nurse licensure compact has been a controversial topic. While positives of the NLC have been widely promoted, it is just as important for nurses to be aware of the potential risks and use that knowledge to advocate for their patients and our profession

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Artificial Intelligence (AI) in Nursing

By Susan Hoffstetter, PhD, WHNP-BC, FAANP



Current uses and future development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) are topics of increased focus, debate, scrutiny, and conjecture related to many different dynamics of society, including healthcare. This article gives a scoping review of the existing research related to AI technologies used currently within nursing practice. The article states that current implementation and use of AI in nursing is in its infancy, although, as the technology develops, it appears to potentially have wide reaching impacts on how nursing evolves as a profession and discipline. This article should be of interest to all nurses as it broadly, but succinctly, defines AI, identifies where AI is currently used within nursing, identifies phenomenological and methodological gaps in current AI focused research within nursing, and states the need for developing ethical guidelines regarding the use of AI within nursing moving forward. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ijnurstu.2021.104153>
Submitted by Nate Schreiner.

AI focused research

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