

TOPIC: IN SUPPORT OF INCREASED AWARENESS FOR PATIENT EDUCATION RELATED TO MEDICATIONS FOR POST-MYOCARDIAL INFARCTION PATIENTS TO PREVENT RECURRENT CARDIAC EVENTS

SUBMITTED BY: Salisbury University Student Nurses' Association

WHEREAS, approximately 865,000 Americans experienced a new or recurrent MI in 2001, with 184,757 deaths; and

WHEREAS, in 2005, an estimated 16 million persons in the United States were living with coronary heart disease, and 8.1 million reported ever having had a myocardial infarction; and

WHEREAS, adherence is challenging for all patients, but particularly for the elderly who often have multiple medical conditions to manage, with a high number of concurrent medications; and

WHEREAS, part of the difficulty associated with achieving better medication adherence lies in the inherent complexity of medication-taking decisions and behavior and of relationships between patients, their healthcare providers, and often others involved in the patient's care; and

WHEREAS, factors affecting adherence are the caregiver's involvement and the patient's knowledge of drugs and drug treatment; and

WHEREAS, medications are 'handed out' at times convenient to nursing staff, with the patients having limited or no information about the doses, side effects, or uses of the medications; and

WHEREAS, research shows that MI patients often rate information needs highly in relation to other self-perceived needs and timing and content of patient education are important; and

WHEREAS, nurses have an important role in the process as they have both the knowledge and the opportunity to provide patients with the important information on drugs; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) support increased patient education related to medications for post-myocardial infarction patients; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to become aware of the benefits of patient education, and increase education for post-MI patients to avoid recurrent cardiac events; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support heightened focus on educating nursing students about the importance of education such as medication teaching, healthy lifestyle promotion and maintenance, and prevention of recurrent cardiac events as a significant aspect of nursing practice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA advocate for nursing program education on increased patient education time within plans of care; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA support increased awareness of post-MI patient education via publishing an article in *Imprint*, if feasible; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the NSNA send copies of the resolution to the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing, the Preventative Cardiovascular Nurses Association, the American Medical Association, the American Heart Association, each State Board of Nursing, and any others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of Directors.