

How Can Nurses Contribute to Better Care, Better Health and Lower Costs for Texans?

The Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing believes all Texans deserve better care, better health and lower costs associated with health care. The Texas Team also believes nurses – as the largest group of healthcare providers in the state – are the key to achieving these three goals in Texas. Texas Team members are enthusiastic about the potential of achieving the Institute of Medicine (IOM) Future of Nursing report goals established in 2010 to transform nursing and health care in Texas.

The Texas Team has joined the national Campaign for Action, which envisions a nation where every American has access to high-quality, patient-centered care in a health care system where nurses contribute as essential partners in achieving success. The complexity of the ever-changing health care environment requires even more nurses in practice and with advanced credentials and expertise. In many settings, nurses are not able to work to the full extent of their education and training and too few hold leadership positions.

The Texas Team, as a state action coalition, is an active participant in the Campaign for Action, and working to:

1. Assure by 2020, 80% of Texas RNs hold a baccalaureate degree or higher;
2. Double the number of nurses with a doctorate by 2020;
3. Strengthen the diversity of the Texas RN workforce to better care for the state's multicultural population;
4. Enable all nurses in Texas to practice to the full extent of their education and training;
5. Advance interprofessional collaboration to ensure coordinated and improved patient care;
6. Expand leadership ranks to ensure that nurses have voices on management teams, in boardrooms and during policy debates; and
7. Improve health care workforce data collection to better assess and project workforce requirements.

The Texas Team seeks to further the long-time efforts of many nurse leaders and nursing organizations and to actively engage a wide range of health care providers; consumer leaders; prominent officials; and groups representing government, business, academia and philanthropy. The Texas Nurses Association and BlueCross BlueShield of Texas lead implementation of the IOM recommendations in Texas. Both groups are enthusiastic about the potential for the IOM goals to transform nursing and thus transform health care in the state of Texas.

A 2012 updated report entitled “Code Red – The Critical Condition of Health in Texas,” (www.coderedtexas.org) continues to believe the overall health condition of Texans is poor – in fact, Texas ranks at the bottom percentiles on health and at the top percentiles on uninsured and cost of care. The Texas Team believes significant improvements in health outcomes and the reduction of healthcare costs for Texans will require transformation and better utilization of the nursing profession.

What is Campaign for Action?

The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, in collaboration with AARP, initiated the Future of Nursing: *Campaign for Action* in late 2010. The initiative builds on the *Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health*, a landmark Institute of Medicine (IOM) report that provided a blueprint for transforming the nursing profession to improve health care and meet the needs of diverse populations.

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For more on Campaign for Action and other health care workforce programs:

Campaign for Action

www.thefutureofnursing.org

Texas Team Advancing Health through Nursing

j.mp/texasnurses

Texas Team on Facebook

www.facebook.com/txteamnursing

For more information about Campaign for Action in Texas

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