

# ACADEMY INSIDER

TRANSFORMING HEALTH POLICY STARTS  
BY KEEPING CONNECTED



April 19, 2023



April 3: The Academy, along with seven members of the APRN Workgroup, sent a letter to the **U.S. Departments of Health and Human Services (HHS), Labor (DOL), and Treasury (USDT) urging them to begin the rulemaking process on section 2706(a) of the Public Health Service Act**. Section 2706 prohibits private health plans from discriminating against qualified licensed healthcare professionals based on their licensure. Without an enforceable rule in place, discrimination against health care providers will continue to occur. [Read more.](#)

March 31: The Academy, along with members of the APRN Workgroup submitted comments in response to the **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proposed rule; Telemedicine Prescribing of Controlled Substances When the Practitioner and the Patient Have Not Had a Prior In-Person Medical Evaluation (88 Fed. Reg. 12875, March 1, 2023)**. Issues discussed in the letter include telemedicine, workforce shortage, in-person visits, prescriptions, mid-level practitioners, and buprenorphine. [Read more.](#)

March 31: The Academy, along with members of the APRN Workgroup submitted comments in response to the **Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) proposed rule; Expansion of Induction of Buprenorphine via Telemedicine Encounter (88 Fed. Reg. 12890, March 1, 2023)**. The proposed rule provides requirements to check the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) prior to issuance of a prescription, 30-day limitations, in-person requirements for follow-up appointments, and more detailed requirements for record-keeping are expected to minimize the diversion of buprenorphine via telemedicine, including audio-only telemedicine. [Read more.](#)

March 31: The Academy, along with eleven members of the APRN Workgroup, sent a letter to the **U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) requesting the regulatory waivers in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency be made permanent**. These waivers not only have enabled APRNs to practice at the top of their licensure but also strengthened the health care workforce and improved health equity. The letter requested HHS provide evidence for not extending the listed specific waivers. [Read more.](#)

March 31: The Academy, along with eleven members of the APRN Workgroup, sent a letter to the **Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services (CMS) requesting the regulatory waivers in place during the COVID-19 public health emergency be made permanent**. These waivers not only have enabled APRNs to practice at the top of their licensure but also align with the six strategic pillars in CMS's strategic plan. The letter requested the agency provide evidence for not extending the listed specific waivers. [Read more.](#)

March 29: The Academy submitted comments in response to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee's request for information regarding the **reauthorization of the Pandemic and All-Hazards Preparedness Act (PAHPA)**. The comments highlight recommendations on improving disease surveillance, state and federal stockpiles, streamlining coordination during emergencies, and making permanent the telehealth waivers implemented during the COVID-19 public health emergency. The Academy's Expert Panels on Environmental & Public Health; Bioethics; Child, Adolescent and Family; and Health Equity assisted in the development of the comments. [Read more.](#)

March 24: The Academy, along with 121 organizations, joined a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) requesting they **fully fund the Public Health Workforce Loan Repayment Program at its \$100 million authorization level and provide \$50 million to launch the new Bio-Preparedness Workforce Pilot Program.** [Read more.](#)

March 23: The Academy, along with sixty-five health organizations, joined a letter to the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) requesting **funding for family planning, teen pregnancy prevention, and sexually transmitted infection programs in Fiscal Year (FY) 2024.** [Read more.](#)

March 20: The Academy, along with sixty-three members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC) submitted comments in response to the **Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee's request for information on current health care workforce issues**, outlining current realities and proposals to ensure nurses may continue to provide high-quality health care to all communities. [Read more.](#)

March 20: The Academy, along with eleven members of the APRN Workgroup submitted comments in response to the **Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee's request for information on current health care workforce issues**, examining the important lessons from the pandemic and considering how to move forward. [Read more.](#)

March 20: The Academy sent comments to the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (HELP) Committee with recommendations on **how to remedy current nursing and health care workforce shortages** with policy solutions. Some of the recommendations in the letter included removing barriers to the advanced practice registered nursing (APRN) workforce and supporting the current and future nursing workforce through investment in workforce development, increasing data collection for enhanced solutions, and addressing workplace violence. [Read more.](#)

March 16: The Academy, along with members of the Campaign for Tobacco-Free Kids, joined letters to the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS-ED) requesting an **increase in funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's (CDC) Office on Smoking and Health (OSH).** This increase would help OSH respond to high rates of e-cigarette use among youth and the devastating toll that tobacco continues to take on our nation's health. Read the [House](#) and [Senate](#) letters.

March 9: The Academy, along with members of the Nursing Community Coalition (NCC), sent a letter to the House and Senate Leaders urging Congress to take legislative action to **make the various waivers in place during the Public Health Emergency (PHE) permanent** so nurses and Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) can continue to provide high-quality health care to patients in all communities, including in rural and underserved areas. [Read more.](#)

 AMERICAN ACADEMY  
of NURSING

April 27 | 12:00-1:30 PM ET  
2023-2024 Policy Dialogue Series

**More Than Documentation Burden Creating Burnout: What Systems Must do to Achieve Safe, Efficient Patient Care Using Technology**

Hosted by the Informatics & Technology Expert Panel in collaboration with the Expert Panels on Acute & Critical Care, Quality Health Care, Bioethics, and Building Health Care System Excellence



[Register here](#)

#### Purpose Statement:

As a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, the documentation burden for nurses has amplified. This policy dialogue will engage participants in discussion of strategies that leverage technology and system response to reduce burnout thereby contributing to safe patient care and clinician well-being. The underlying issues surrounding burnout, distress, and documentation burden will be explored, specifically relating to how technological stress impacts clinicians. This dialogue will address three perspectives, including local/organizational, state, and national.

### Featured Speakers:

- **Victoria (Vicky) L. Tiase**, PhD, RN-BC, FAMIA, FNAP, FAAN
  - **Stephanie (Steph) Hoelscher**, DNP, RN-BC, CPHIMS, CHISP, FHIMSS
  - **Jess Dillard-Wright**, PhD, MA, RN, CNM (she/they)
  - **Allison Norful**, PhD, RN, ANP-BC, FAAN
  - **Mari Tietze**, PhD, RN-BC, FHIMSS, FAAN
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**Better Health Through Better Understanding | April 2023**

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The Academy recognizes National Minority Health Month and the 2023 theme "Better Health Through Better Understanding". We must better understand the needs and social risks of the individuals and communities' nurses care for as well as how their needs evolve. Positive health outcomes, quality of care, as well as patient safety, are tied to language access, health literacy, and the provision of patient-centered as well as culturally safe and supportive care. In an effort to improve health literacy, the Academy submitted comments to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed rule regarding Medicare Advantage (MA or Part C) and Programs of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE). The Academy's comments recommended CMS emphasize the need to provide culturally safe and supportive care in addition to culturally and linguistically appropriate care and continue to evaluate ways to expand and promote digital health literacy to improve health outcomes. [Read more here.](#)

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The National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) unveiled its research, titled “Examining the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on Burnout & Stress Among U.S. Nurses,” in a panel titled “Nursing at the Crossroads: A Call to Action”. The research findings revealed how the nursing workforce was impacted by the pandemic and how many left the workforce in this period, and forecast how many nurses in the U.S. have an intent to leave the workforce. The research also examined the personal and professional characteristics of nurses experiencing heightened workplace burnout and stress due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief Officer of Nursing Regulation and Academy Fellow Maryann Alexander, PhD, RN, FAAN said "There is an urgent opportunity today for healthcare systems, policymakers, regulators, and academic leaders to coalesce and enact solutions that will spur positive systemic evolution to address these challenges and maximize patient protection in care into the future." View her [CNN interview here](#). Read the [2022 National Nursing Workforce Survey here](#).



*These Board approved policy manuscripts and consensus papers were recently published in Nursing Outlook.*

#### **Policy Priority Area: Increase Accessibility to All Forms of Health Care**

[Climate change and the adverse impact on the health and well-being of women and girls from the Women's Health Expert Panel of the American Academy of Nursing](#)  
[Women's Health Expert Panel](#)

- This manuscript explores the effects of climate change on the health and well-being of women and girls. It examines key areas of human health that are linked to planetary health including reproductive health, infectious disease, migration, and access to resources such as food and water.

#### **Policy Priority Area: Promote High-Impact Advances in Practice, Innovation, and Science**

[Scoping review: Positive and negative impact of technology on clinicians](#)  
[Informatics & Technology](#), [Bioethics](#), and the [Quality Health Care Expert Panels](#)

- This consensus paper explores the electronic health records (EHR) and their benefits for patients and clinicians. While there are many benefits to EHR usage, unfortunately, the unintended consequences of unnecessary documentation burden and usability issues have negatively impacted clinicians leading to burnout and moral distress.
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### Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- [Recruiting Grant Reviewers](#): The Division of Grant Review (DGR) is recruiting reviewers for fiscal year 2023 who have academic qualifications and professional work experience in mental health services, preventing substance misuse, and/or treating substance use disorder. [Learn more.](#)
    - Please contact DGR at [reviewer@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:reviewer@samhsa.hhs.gov) for more information or go to their website to [submit your information](#).
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### National Academy of Medicine (NAM)

- [NAM Launches Next Phase of Clinician Well-Being Collaborative Focused on Implementation of National Plan for Health Workforce Well-Being](#)
- [Statement by NAM President Victor J. Dzau: Coverage of Preventive Services Is Crucial to Protect Health and Contain Health Care Costs](#)
- April 24 (in-person): [Covid Crisis Group Discusses Findings from New Report](#)
- [Improving Telehealth and Virtual Care for Pain Management and Substance Use Disorders](#)

### The National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM)

- April 20-21: [Improving Access to High-Quality Mental Health Care for Veterans: A Workshop](#)
  - April 25: [Supporting the Health and Well-Being of Gender Diverse Youth: A Workshop](#)
  - April 27: [Supporting and Sustaining the Current and Future Workforce to Care for People with Serious Illness](#)
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#### **Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**

- [Increased Use of Telehealth Services and Medications for Opioid Use Disorder During the COVID-19 Pandemic Associated with Reduced Risk for Fatal Overdose](#)

#### **Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)**

- [CMS Proposes Policies to Improve Patient Safety and Promote Health Equity](#)

#### **Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**

- [HHS Finalizes Rule to Strengthen Medicare, Improve Access to Affordable Prescription Drug Coverage, and Hold Private Insurance Companies Accountable to Delivering Quality Health Care for America's Seniors and People with Disabilities](#)
- [HHS Proposes New Rule to Further Implement the 21st Century Cures Act](#)
- [HHS Office for Civil Rights Announces the Expiration of COVID-19 Public Health Emergency HIPAA Notifications of Enforcement Discretion](#)
- [HHS Proposes Measures to Bolster Patient-Provider Confidentiality Around Reproductive Health Care](#)

#### **National Institute on Health (NIH)**

- [SARS-CoV-2 infection weakens immune-cell response to vaccination](#)
- [Buprenorphine initiation in the ER found safe and effective for individuals with opioid use disorder who use fentanyl](#)



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*Based on previous positions taken by the Academy, the following scan is meant for informational purposes and does not directly translate to Academy endorsement. Links provided allow you to watch the recordings and read witness testimony.*

#### **House Committee on Appropriations**

- April 19: [Budget & Oversight Hearing – Fiscal Year 2024 Request For The Centers For Disease Control And Prevention, Administration For Strategic Preparedness And Response, And National Institute Of Health](#)
- March 28: [Budget Hearing – Fiscal Year 2024 Request For The Department Of Health And Human Services](#)

#### **House Committee on Veterans' Affairs**

- March 29: [Subcommittee on Health Legislative Hearing](#)

#### **Senate Committee on Appropriations**

- March 22: [Subcommittee Hearing: A Review of the President's FY 2024 Funding Request and Budget Justification for the Department of Health and Human Services](#)
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