Advocating for a Nurse Identifier

Policy Recommendation

Developed by the Nursing Knowledge Big Data Science Conference Health IT Policy Workgroup

Why do we need a Nurse Identifier?

1. Hospitals and health systems need the ability to uniquely identify nurses in the electronic health record (EHR), enterprise resource planning system (ERP), and other health IT systems for documentation, education, research and training purposes.

2. Nursing documentation in the EHR, ERP and other health IT systems will increasingly be used to demonstrate nurses' value as healthcare transitions to a value-based reimbursement model.

3. Nursing documentation can demonstrate nurses' value and impact on improving patient/population outcomes, patient safety, operational efficiency and clinical effectiveness.

4. Nurses and employers need a mechanism to track nursing licensure across job and location changes throughout a nurse's career.

5. Institutions need the ability to verify licensure status for their nurse employees

Background

- The Big Data Science Health IT Policy Workgroup is advocating for use of the unique nurse identifier maintained and supported by the National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN) called the *NCSBN ID* accessible via www.nursys.com

- The *NCSBN ID* is a free, unique identifier, publicly available, that is automatically generated for each RN and LPN/LVN at the time of their NCLEX exam. No additional action by the nurse is necessary.

- Nurses who received licensure prior to the NCLEX exam have been assigned an *NCSBN ID* and added to the Nursys database maintained by the NCSBN.

- The Nursys e-Notify® system allows institutions to receive license status including the *NCSBN ID* for their nurses, and electronically tracks each nurse across multiple state licensures.

- The National Provider Identifier (NPI) is the industry standard for nurse providers who submit claims. We will work with the American Nurses Association (ANA) to achieve wider adoption for all RNs.

Policy Recommendation

- The *NCSBN ID* should be used by key stakeholders as a nurse identifier to help demonstrate the value of nurses through research, and enhance patient care and outcomes via more comprehensive documentation in the EHR, ERP, and other health IT systems.

Next Steps

- 1) Complete a proof of concept analysis of at least one healthcare provider organization.
  2) Work with the ANA to align strategies to achieve widespread adoption of the NPI for nursing.
  3) Execute an education and awareness plan to advocate our policy recommendation through outreach to other key stakeholders and partners.

To learn more about the NCSBN Nursys database visit: **www.nursys.com**