



September 6, 2016

Katie Martin  
Acting Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation  
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
Attention: 1557 RFI (RIN 0945-AA02)  
Hubert H. Humphrey Building, Room 509F  
200 Independence Avenue SW  
Washington, DC 20201

Submitted electronically to [regulations.gov](http://regulations.gov)

Re: 1557 RFI (RIN 0945-AA02) [Request for Information: Opioid Analgesic Prescriber Education and Training Opportunities to Prevent Opioid Overdose and Opioid Use Disorder](#)

Dear Acting Assistant Secretary Martin:

On behalf of the American Nurses Association (ANA), we are pleased to respond to the [Request for Information: Opioid Analgesic Prescriber Education and Training Opportunities to Prevent Opioid Overdose and Opioid Use Disorder](#). As the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.6 million registered nurses (RNs), ANA is privileged to speak on behalf of its state and constituent member associations, organizational affiliates, and individual members. RNs serve in multiple direct care, care coordination, and administrative leadership roles, across the full spectrum of health care settings. RNs provide and coordinate patient care, educate patients and the public about various health conditions including essential self-care, and provide advice and emotional support to patients and their family members. ANA members also include the four advanced practice registered nurse roles: nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives and certified registered nurse anesthetists.<sup>1</sup> ANA is dedicated to partnering with health care consumers to improve practices, policies, delivery models, outcomes, and access across the health care continuum.

We want to bring to your attention an important educational initiative. To combat the nation's opioid epidemic, 25 national nursing organizations have joined forces to offer a free online educational series that will serve as a resource for practicing nurses, faculty, and students. The series, entitled [Addressing the Opioid Crisis: The Nursing Education Series on Opioids](#), offer nurses the opportunity to earn free continuing education credit – generally an effective mechanism to generate interest and engagement in learning and educational tools. The webinars will take place

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<sup>1</sup> The Consensus Model for APRN Regulation defines four APRN roles: certified nurse practitioner, clinical nurse specialist, certified nurse-midwife and certified registered nurse anesthetist. In addition to defining the four roles, the Consensus Model describes the APRN regulatory model, identifies the titles to be used, defines specialty, describes the emergence of new roles and population foci, and presents strategies for implementation.

8515 Georgia Ave., Suite 400  
Silver Spring, MD 20910  
[www.nursingworld.org](http://www.nursingworld.org)

on September 8 at 2:00 PM (ET) [Answering the Call to Action: Addressing the Nation's Opioid Crisis](#); September 22 at 2:00 PM (ET) [Understanding the CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain and Other National Strategies](#); October 6 at 2:00 PM (ET) [The Opioid Crisis: APRN Curricular Integration](#); and October 20 at 2:00 PM (ET) [The National Opioid Crisis: Your Practice, Your Responsibility](#). In addition, now through July 2018, the American Psychiatric Nurses Association (APNA) will be offering a free, on-demand CE course: *Effective Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder: Educating & Empowering All Registered Nurses (RN) During an Epidemic*. More information is available on the [APNA website](#).

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on this request for information. If you have questions, please contact Mary Beth Bresch White, Director, Health Policy ([marybreschwhite@ana.org](mailto:marybreschwhite@ana.org)).

Sincerely,



Debbie D. Hatmaker, PhD, RN, FAAN  
Executive Director / Executive Vice President

cc: Pamela Cipriano, PhD, RN, NEA-BC, FAAN, ANA President  
Marla Weston, PhD, RN, FAAN, ANA Chief Executive Officer  
Juliann Sebastian, PhD, RN, FAAN, AACN President  
Mary Ann Nihart, MA, APRN, PMHCNS-BC, PMHNP-BC, APNA President