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Leading change in healthcare

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Abstract

The healthcare industry demands nurses function as leaders of interprofessional teams. The scope of practice of nursing has broadened and will continue to expand to include working within complex health systems and managing large groups of diverse people. Leaders in healthcare are needed to carry the multiple health initiatives mandated by changes in federal healthcare and private insurance carriers. Nurses are key stakeholders and players in leading change in healthcare. The Institute of Medicine report, The Future of Nursing: Leading Change, Advancing Health (2011,) issued a call to action for nurses to lead change in healthcare. In order to be a leader, self-confidence and knowledge of successful leadership qualities are needed. Nurses face many possibilities in leading effective change to promote optimal outcomes. It is important that nurses step up to this transformation call. There are 3.1 million nurses who have the potential to develop leading change. This session will define leadership and discuss how to engage others, encourage individual best performance, and acknowledge accomplishments toward the identified goals.

Biography

Pam O'Neal is a registered nurse and has a Ph.D. in Nursing from Virginia Commonwealth University, Master's in Nursing from the University of Tennessee in Memphis, and Bachelor degrees in Nursing and Psychology from Union University in Jackson, Tennessee. She is an Associate Professor at the University of Alabama in Huntsville, Alabama. She has more than 25 years of experience in nursing. She has clinical experience in cardiac and medical intensive care and administrative experience as Associate Dean and Dean at several universities in Georgia and Alabama. She has presented and published in the area of pulmonary critical care and has served in numerous leadership positions with the American Association of Critical Care Nurses and Sigma Theta Tau International.

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