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American Association of Nurse Practitioners

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American Association of Nurse Practitioners

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As a student joining the American Association of nurse practitioners (AANP) is recommendable since it is the largest in the United States for all nurse specialties. Joining AANP helps individual interest of every nurse to be addressed among the more than 234,000 nurses who are licensed to operate (Barnes, 2015). Through the association, it becomes easier to advance health policy, promote education and research, promote excellence and come up with standards that serve the nurse practitioner patients best.

Vision and Mission

The vision of AANP is to promote growth of the nursing practitioner community through the shared vision. This goes hand in hand with core values such as trust, accountability, transparency, ethical commitment, respect and reliability (Manning et al., 2016). Again, mission of AANP is to strengthen every nurse practitioner and improve quality health care by practice, education, leadership, advocacy and research.

Requirements for Membership

As a student to join AANP, there are several requirements one must fulfill. One of the requirements for membership is annual dues of \$55 (Kleinpell et al., 2015). Secondly, for student membership, one must be admitted to an entry-level program which is essential in preparing students who have no prior nursing practitioner education. Some of the entry-level programs include a portion of nursing practitioner of Bachelor of Science in nursing to doctor of nursing practice or master and doctor of nursing practice programs. Again, the student must have a right to vote in every state election and any student who wants to seek state office must have a good AANP membership for a period not less than 12 months before the nomination date.

Benefits

Being part of AANP one enjoys various benefits. One of the benefits is education for nurse practitioners. A member is provided with educational experience in helping them optimize professional performance. Secondly, as a member, there is guaranteed practice and career support where the members can maximize their professional development and in turn build their network. Again, there is the benefit of state and federal advocacy which helps in curbing barriers towards enjoying full access to nursing practitioner services (Barnes, 2015). Also, as a member one can get relevant information on-time ranging from latest news to top nursing practitioner journals. Last but not least benefit is exclusive savings and discounts on certification, retail, practice resources and travel among others. This helps the members to save on practice tools.

Current Key Issues of Concern

In any sector, there are always issues of concern. To AANP one of the current issues of concern is improving patient Medicare access to all home services. This has made the association unable to document every face to face patient assessment. Secondly, AANP is working towards recognizing nurse practitioner practices similar to other Medicare shared savings organizations. Currently, the entire primary care services receiver from AANP nurse cannot be assigned to an accountable care organization (Manning et al., 2016). The third currently issue is about removing all barriers to nursing practitioner's ability to practice where the nursing practitioners are limited to practice to full extent. To address the issue of improving Medicare patient ³access to home health services, the association is calling for the certification of home health care programs by requesting the Congress to amend the title XVIII which is under the social security act. Secondly, to recognize the nursing practitioners' practices which should be similar to other

Medicare shared savings organizations, the association is calling for Congress to increase efforts in improving the way beneficiaries can be assigned under such program. Thirdly, to reduce barriers to nursing practitioner's ability to practice the organization is fighting for updating and revising statutes and relevant regulations as a way to enable patients get access to nursing practitioner services.

The AANP has initiated several legislative efforts towards expanding the nursing practitioner's scope of practice. This has been through blending the medical and nursing services for families, individuals and groups. As a result, nursing practitioners are prepared through either masters or doctoral programs to equip them with clinical primary care competencies and specialized knowledge. Also, nurses have license who act independently to provide acute, ambulatory and long term ⁵care (Kleinpell et al., 2015). This enables the nurses to diagnose and treat any disease as they are already experts in disease prevention and health promotion. Besides, being licensed, the nurse practitioners can serve autonomously and coordinate with other health care professionals serving as interdisciplinary consultants, health researchers and patient advocates.

Membership to American Association of Nurse Practitioners promotes nursing practitioner profession through licensing and educating the practitioners to be able to diagnose and manage acute diseases (Barnes, 2015). Again, as discussed earlier it is evident that the nursing practitioners can work in conjunction with other healthcare professionals to promote health, prevent diseases, counsel individuals through acting as healthcare researchers, patient advocates and interdisciplinary consultants. This enhances their accountability and responsibility towards meeting the evolving needs of society within the healthcare sector.

References

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