



October 2, 2013

The Honorable Eric Shinseki  
Secretary of Veterans Affairs  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
801 Vermont Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20420

Dear Secretary Shinseki,

On behalf of the 40 undersigned organizations representing the Nursing Community, we would like to extend our support to the Veterans Administration (VA) surrounding its work to update the Veterans Health Administration's (VHA) Nursing Handbook 1180.03. Collectively, the Nursing Community represents nearly one million Registered Nurses, Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs), nurse executives, nursing students, nursing faculty, and nurse researchers. Our organizations collaborate to advance sound policy decisions that promote improvements to our nation's healthcare system.

We commend your recognition of APRNs (including nurse practitioners, certified nurse-midwives, certified registered nurse anesthetists and clinical nurse specialists) as Licensed Independent Practitioners (LIPs) in the VHA's Nursing Handbook. We believe this will further facilitate timely delivery of high-quality health care to our nation's service men and women. APRNs are educated to provide evidence-based care to specific patient populations and are qualified to diagnose and treat a variety of conditions. APRNs practice in a diversity of healthcare settings and are often depended upon by underserved communities as the sole advanced practice clinician. The VHA's recommendation to acknowledge APRNs as LIPs supports the profession to practice to the full extent of APRN education and training. This in turn will help ensure an adequate supply of LIPs are available to care for the military and Veteran populations.

Again, we applaud the VA for working to recognize APRNs as LIPs as it directly responds to the decades of empirical evidence that shows the care provided by APRNs is of high quality, reduces healthcare costs, and increases access. If our organizations can be of any assistance in this endeavor, please contact convener of the Nursing Community Dr. Suzanne Miyamoto, at [Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu](mailto:Smiyamoto@aacn.nche.edu) or 202-463-6930, ext. 247.

Sincerely,

Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses  
American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing  
American Academy of Nursing

American Assembly for Men in Nursing  
American Association of Colleges of Nursing  
American Association of Nurse Anesthetists  
American Association of Nurse Practitioners  
American College of Nurse-Midwives  
American Nurses Association  
American Organization of Nurse Executives  
American Psychiatric Nurses Association  
American Society for Pain Management Nursing  
American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses  
Association of Community Health Nursing Educators  
Association of Nurses in AIDS Care  
Association of periOperative Registered Nurses  
Association of Public Health Nurses  
Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists\*  
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses  
Commissioned Officers Association of the U.S. Public Health Service  
Dermatology Nurses' Association  
Emergency Nurses Association  
Gerontological Advanced Practice Nurses Association  
Hospice and Palliative Nurses Association  
Infusion Nurses Society  
International Nurses Society on Addictions  
International Society of Psychiatric Nurses  
National American Arab Nurses Association  
National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists  
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health  
National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners  
National Association of School Nurses  
National Gerontological Nursing Association  
National Nursing Centers Consortium  
National Organization for Associate Degree Nursing  
National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties  
Nurses Organization of Veterans Affairs  
Oncology Nursing Society  
Preventive Cardiovascular Nurses Association  
Public Health Nursing Section, American Public Health Association  
The Quad Council of Public Health Nursing Organizations

*\*The Association of Veterans Affairs Nurse Anesthetists supports this initiative but is not a member of the Nursing Community.*