

## **AONE Releases Guiding Principles for the Nurse Executive to Enhance Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology**

**Developed in collaboration with Hill-Rom to help nurse leaders work with industry partners to drive the use of technology at the bedside**

**CHICAGO, Ill., and BATESVILLE, Ind. (April 17, 2009)** — In a collaborative effort, the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) and Hill-Rom (NYSE:HRC) have developed guiding principles to support nurse executives in working with industry technology partners to leverage technology to improve clinical outcomes. Technology is recognized as a key lever within the system of health care delivery—it has the unique capacity to either reduce or increase workload demand. Creating the appropriate balance and/or impact is a critical role for leadership. Understanding the role of the nurse executive in this work is essential.

AONE first addressed technology with the development of the AONE Guiding Principles for the Role of the Nurse in Acquisition, Implementation and Evaluation of Technology in 2006. These guiding principles were developed by a group of nurse leader experts, representing both nursing practice and the information technology industry. Those principles and the accompanying toolkit offer nurse leaders a roadmap to understanding the unique role they must play in technology implementation.

"It was a natural next step to look at further ways to leverage technology, especially addressing the issues of quality and safety, said AONE Chief Executive Officer Pamela Thompson, RN, MS, FAAN. According to Thompson, AONE and nurse executives from across the country gathered along with Hill-Rom's Information Technology Solutions team for a two-day DayofDialogue™. The purpose of that meeting was to discuss and define the role of technology in the clinical setting and the role of nurse leaders in driving technology across the health care delivery system. The outcome was captured in the newly released guiding principles—AONE Guiding Principles for the Nurse Executive to Enhance Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology.

"It is critical that information systems be evaluated from a multi-disciplinary perspective," said Thompson. "Additionally, it is imperative that industry partners bring us technology and medical devices that are easily integrated into the clinical setting without increasing the workload for nurses. It was a natural step to work with Hill Rom to address the role that technology could play in this process. The result is a roadmap designed for nurse leaders that guides them through a shared, evidence-based model that is standardized and built on an alliance between technology and the clinical endeavor."

Thompson explained that guiding principles, toolkits and positions on best practices are created with the goal of developing the AONE member as a leader in collaboration and a catalyst for innovation within the health care setting.

Hill-Rom's Vice President and Chief Clinical Officer Melissa A. Fitzpatrick, RN, MSN, FAAN, said that there is strength in the power of partnership as industry leaders and nurse executives collaborate to bring about transformation in health care delivery.

"For more than 40 years, AONE has helped to provide platforms for establishing standards, measures and oversight for the practice of nursing at the executive level," said Fitzpatrick. "To partner in this current work allows both Hill-Rom and AONE to assure that the technology that exists in the clinical environment is available to support patient quality and safety as well as nursing efficiency and satisfaction."

"Technology investment is made iteratively, and the interoperability between technology solutions is essential to gain the best value from the solutions and to help nurses to utilize their critical thinking and assessment skills in the most effective way possible," Fitzpatrick added. "There are many stages to technology evaluation, acquisition and implementation. Rigorous communication must occur between industry, nursing leadership and frontline caregivers so that we all know the plan, the timelines and the expectations of each participant in the process. When done well, we not only set ourselves up for success, but most importantly, we achieve successful patient outcomes. Establishing true partnership between industry thought leaders and our nurse leader colleagues is the path to better decisions, better processes and greater satisfaction for all."

The AONE Guiding Principles for the Nurse Executive to Enhance Clinical Outcomes by Leveraging Technology is available to view in the resource section of the AONE website ([www.aone.org](http://www.aone.org)) or on the Hill-Rom website ([www.hill-rom.com](http://www.hill-rom.com)).

About the American Organization of Nurse Executives The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) is the national professional organization for nurses who design, facilitate, and manage care. With more than 6,500 members, AONE is the leading voice of nursing leadership in health care. Since 1967, the organization has provided leadership, professional development, advocacy and research to advance nursing practice and patient care, promote nursing leadership excellence

and shape public policy for health care. AONE is a subsidiary of the American Hospital Association.

About Hill-Rom Hill-Rom is a leading worldwide manufacturer and provider of medical technologies and related services for the health care industry, including patient support systems, safe mobility and handling solutions, non-invasive therapeutic products for a variety of acute and chronic medical conditions, medical equipment rentals, and information technology solutions. Hill-Rom's comprehensive product and service offerings are used by health care providers across the health care continuum in hospitals, extended care facilities and home care settings to enhance the safety and quality of patient care.

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