14.8. Describe the participation/involvement of nurses at all levels in the activities of professional organizations.

Involvement of Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) nurses at all levels in the organization in the activities of professional organizations promotes individual clinical and professional development, in addition to, advancing the profession. Detailed information is presented about participation/involvement in professional organizations, presentations and publications in the Professional Achievement portion of the Patient Care Services’ Annual Report (OOD 12.b).

Below is a sampling to illustrate nursing involvement in these initiatives by nurses at all levels of the organization from 2006-2007:

**Officers, Boards and Subcommittees/Task Forces Membership in Professional Organizations:**

- **Joanne Empoliti, RN, MSN, APRN, ONC, Clinical Nurse Specialist**
  *President, National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses, Massachusetts Chapter*

- **Jane Harker, RN, MS, BSN, CGRN, Staff Nurse, Endoscopy**
  *President, New England Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates*

- **Amy Levine, RN, BSN, Staff Nurse, Main Operating Room**
  *Nurse Leader, Sigma Theta Tau, Gamma Epsilon Chapter, Boston, MA*

- **Sally Millar, RN, MBA, Director, Patient Care Services Information Systems and Office of Patient Advocacy**
  *Member, Advisory Board, American Organization of Nurse Executives*

- **Peter Moran, RN, C, BSN, MS, CCM, Case Manager**
  *President, National Case Management Society of America*

- **Kathleen Myers, RN, MSN, APRN, BC, Nursing Director, Orthopaedics**
• Laura Ryan, RN, OCN, Staff Nurse, Oncology Infusion
  Member, Board of Directors, New England Coalition of Cancer Survivorship

• Sandra Silvestri, RN, MS, CNOR, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Operating Room
  Member, Advanced Practice and Perioperative Nurses with Masters Degree Task Force, National Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses

**Membership in Professional Organizations:**

• Robin Delaney, RN, BS, OCN, Staff Nurse, Radiation Oncology
  Member, Oncology Nurses Society

• Sandra Mann Distaso, RN, MSN, ONC, Staff Nurse, Orthopaedics
  Member, National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses

• Jeanette Ives Erickson, RN, MS, Senior Vice President for Patient Care
  Member, National Advisory Council on Nurse Education and Practice (NACNEP), Health and Human Services Administration, Washington, DC; Member, American Nurses Association; Member, American Organization of Nurse Executives; Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives

• Marian Jeffries, MSN, APRN BC, FNP-C, Clinical Nurse Specialist
  Member, National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialist; Member, American Association of Critical Care Nurses; Member, American Academy of Nurse Practitioners; member Oncology Nursing Society

• Leandra McLean, RN, Staff Nurse Surgical Intensive Care Unit
  Member, Emergency Nurses Association; Member, American Association of Critical Care Nurses; Member, International Association of Forensic Nurses

• Elena Pittel, RN-C, Staff Nurse, Obstetrics
Member, Association of Woman’s Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses

- Colleen Snydeman, RN, MSN, Nursing Director, Cardiac Intensive Care Unit
  *Member, American Organization of Nurse Executives; Member, American Association of Critical Care Nursing; Member, International Association of Forensic Nursing*

- Dawn Tenney, Associate Chief Nurse
  *Member, American Nurse Association; Member, American Organization of Nurse Executives; Member, Association of Perioperative Registered Nurses; Member Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives*

**Presentations at Professional Organizations:**

- Judy Corbett, RN, BSN, MS, Staff Nurse, Endoscopy
  “Video Capsule Endoscopy: Bridging the Gap”, 33rd Annual Society of Gastroenterology Nurse and Associates Course

- Barbara Levin, RN, BSN, ONC, LNCC, Staff Nurse, Orthopaedics
  “When the Call Bell Rings: Appreciating Generational and Cultural Differences in Communication”, National Gerontological Nursing Conference

- Elizabeth Johnson, RN, MSN, AOCN, AOCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Gynecology and Oncology
  Bone Marrow Transplant for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, Infusion Nurses Society Annual Meeting

- Robin Lipkis-Orlando, RN, MS, CS, Nursing Director, Psychiatry
  “Safely Caring for the Delirious Patient in the Acute Care Setting”, International Society of Psychiatric Nursing Conference

- Donna Perry, RN, PhD, Professional Development Coordinator, The Institute for Patient Care and Co-Director, Durant Fellowship in Refugee Medicine
  “Nursing as a Transformative Voice for Human Dignity,” Sigma Theta Tau International Nursing Honor Society
• Gayle Peterson, RN, Staff Nurse and Ellen Robinson, RN, PhD, Clinical Nurse Specialist
  “Ethical Considerations in Pain Management”, Massachusetts Chapter of American Nurses Pain Society

• Jackie Somerville, RN, PhDc, Associate Chief Nurse
  “Patients’ Perceptions of Feeling Known by Their Nurse”, Eastern Nursing Research Society

**Publications in Journals of Professional Organizations:**

• Virginia Capasso, RN, APRN, PhD, BC, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Nurse Scientist
  Cheryl Codner, RN, BSN, Staff Nurse, Vascular Surgery
  Gregory Nuzzo-Meuller, RN, BA, BSN, MDiv, Staff Nurse, Vascular Surgery
  Erin Cox, RN, MS, APRN-BC, CCRN, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Vascular Surgery
  Sharon Bouvier, RN, MS, Nursing Director, Vascular Surgery

• Jean Fahey, RN, MSN, CCRN, CNRN, APRN, BC, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Neuroscience
  Carolyn DiMaggio, RN, BSN, Staff Nurse, Neuroscience
  “High Dose Methotrexate and Primary Central Nervous System Lymphoma”, Journal of Neuroscience Nursing

• Ellen Robinson, RN, PhD, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Ethics
  Grace Good, RN, Nurse Practitioner, General Medicine
  Suzanne Burke, RN, Staff Nurse, General Medicine
  “Talking with Lorraine’s Mother and Sister Five Months after her Death” Journal of Clinical Ethics

The following are quotes from some of the nurses cited in the above activities about articulating the impact that their participation in these professional organizational efforts has had on their personal growth or on the advancement of practice.

“Being President of the New England Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates has afforded me the opportunity to influence the educational offerings presented by our Region to all of our members. We provide quality programming on a variety of gastrointestinal-related topics at four regional
conferences each year. This assists the members in obtaining contact hours for recertification in GI nursing and also helps them to remain current in our specialty. Additionally, I have had numerous opportunities to network with other regional leaders from around the country in an effort to better define best practices."

Jane Harker, RN, MS, BSN, CGRN, Staff Nurse, Endoscopy

“I have worked at the MGH for 38 years. It is easy to become myopic if one spends one’s entire career in one institution. I have highly valued my participation in the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives and in the Massachusetts Hospital Association. It affords me with the opportunity of seeing both clinical and administrative practices outside the MGH and Partners Healthcare. I have been able to influence areas of practice and legislation state-wide. I might not have been able to do this if I was not active in professional organizations. I have been active in nursing organizations my entire career (Past-President of the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses and Past-President of the Massachusetts Organization of Nurse Executives). I cherish the connections I have made both with the people and their insights into a myriad of healthcare issues. This work is part of the fabric that makes me a nursing leader. I can’t imagine being successful without this involvement.”

Sally Millar, RN, MBA, Director, Patient Care Services Informatics and Office of Patient Advocacy

“Working in a Magnet environment has placed me in a strategic position to be the fortunate recipient and honored provider of cutting-edge clinical information. Working along-side clinicians in a major academic and research institution which, nevertheless, makes patient-focused care its priority, I am confident that I am participating in a treatment plan which is evidence-based, often goes beyond established standards of care, and continually challenges me to update my knowledge base through reading and networking with colleagues in the institution and my professional community.

I have received calls or emails from colleagues outside of MGH on a number of occasions seeking my advice on a clinical problem. On more than one occasion, this has led to a professional presentation such as the session on “Bone Marrow Transplant for Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia (ALL)” at the Infusion Nurses Society 2006 Annual Meeting. A member of the planning team had picked up my name from the Oncology Nursing Society roster and the listing of Clinical Nurse Specialists at the MGH. She called me to verify information she had received in conjunction with a proposed presentation on bone marrow transplant for ALL, and at a later date shortly thereafter, contacted me with an invitation to present the session.

Working in a Magnet-designated academic medical center made me confident of the knowledge I had to share but also placed me in an excellent position to network with other colleagues nationally. Being at the
crossroads continues to being me opportunities, enabling me to bring a broader knowledge base to my own patients as well as being able to impact the care of patients in numerous other care settings.”

Elizabeth Johnson, RN, MSN, AOCN, AOCNS, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Gynecology and Oncology

“Being active on the national level allows me to emphasize my belief that we need to balance the business of health care with the art and science of case management. As a member of multidisciplinary workgroups with representation from Nursing, Medicine, Case Management, Pharmacy, Managed Care, Hospital Systems, Consumer Coalitions, Business Coalitions and regulatory bodies, we have the opportunity to create new paradigms and tools collaboratively. We have the opportunity to break down traditional silos in health care and develop workable strategies for the future.”

Peter Moran, RN, C, BSN, MS, CCM, Case Manager

“It is the unique combination of excellence at the bedside and the ability to articulate this process to others that allows excellence to prosper across multiple acute care settings. There are a plethora of astute, skilled and compassionate practitioners with a void in the ability to articulate their role with patient care. They silently do their work that so importantly impacts lives, on a daily basis.

My desire to advance the profession by sharing best practice done here at MGH was demonstrated by the article on care of the patient with central nervous system lymphoma. Publishing in a professional journal jointly with a bedside practitioner further illustrated to others on the unit that writing and sharing our best practice is not only a worthy, but an obtainable goal for all.

We have done poster presentations together with the staff on Ellison 12 Neurology, but this was a first article published in a professional journal, and my intention is that it will not be the last.

Jean Fahey, RN, MSN, CCRN, CNRN, APRN, BC
Clinical Nurse Specialist, Neuroscience

Lastly, as cited in Force 14.6 and in RD 8, Massachusetts General Hospital supports the clinical and professional development of leadership and staff throughout the Department of Nursing to attend internal and external continuing education and professional and specialty conferences. Funding averages approximately $400,000 - $500,000 each year. Over $535,000 has been budgeted for conference and travel for leadership and staff in the Department of Nursing for FY 2008.