

Large Study of Nursing Care and Outcomes Underway in New Jersey!

New Jersey nurses are currently being asked to participate in one of the most comprehensive studies of nursing care and patient safety ever conducted in the State! Fifty percent of all Registered Nurses and Licensed Practical Nurses licensed by the State, or over 52,000 New Jersey nurses in total, have received survey packets asking them about certain traits and processes in their work environment. The goal of the study is to identify modifiable factors in today's clinical settings that support nurses in their important job of keeping patients safe and ensuring that patients achieve the best possible health outcomes. This reliable and up-to-date evidence will help nurse managers, facility administrators, and policymakers create and sustain work environments that not only attract nurses but that also enhance the quality of patient care across New Jersey. Therefore, New Jersey nurses are encouraged to let their voices be heard by completing the survey and participating in this landmark effort!

The study is funded by grants from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and the New Jersey Board of Nursing, and is being conducted by the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing, Rutgers College of Nursing, with Linda Flynn, PhD, RN, as the principal investigator. Dr. Flynn and the research team at the Collaborating Center are working in on this project in conjunction with Dr. Linda Aiken at the Center for Health Outcomes and Policy Research at the University of Pennsylvania. Dr. Aiken, who has received numerous awards for her cutting-edge research, is concurrently conducting similar surveys, funded by a grant from the National Institutes of Health, in Pennsylvania and California, making this a truly multi-state research endeavor.

In order to determine the impact of work environment traits on patient outcomes, nurses' responses from all three states will be averaged to the facilities where they practice. The facility averages will then be linked with patient outcome data that are routinely collected from each facility by State and federal agencies. All information obtained in this study is protected by strict confidentiality procedures, and reports of findings will always be in the form of summaries or aggregates, and will never include the identity of individuals or facilities.

To learn more about the study, nurses can visit the website of the New Jersey Collaborating Center for Nursing at www.njccn.org and click on the FAQ link. To contact the research team, please call: 973-353-1307 or email Dr. Flynn at: lflynn@rutgers.edu. Although it will be at least 18 months before a full report of findings is available, an update of the study's progress and preliminary findings will be posted on the Collaborating Center's website.