Acute Medicine Nurses in Ireland Launch Skills and Competencies Publication

Lead by the NAMP Director of Nursing Richard Walsh, AMNIG has recently launched “Setting the Direction: A Development Framework for Nursing Practice Skills and Competencies in Acute Medicine Units and Medical Assessment Units” ISBN 978-1-78602-024-6.

The Minister for Health, Mr Simon Harris, on launching the publication at the annual AMNIG Nursing Symposium in Dublin Castle on September the 5th assured assembled nurses, educators and regulatory bodies of his on-going commitment and support and that of the government to the development of acute medicine nursing and said “The Development Framework to support Nursing Practice Skills and Competencies in Acute Medical Assessment Units and Medical Assessment Units is key to shaping the future design and direction of nursing in Acute Medicine”.

The Acute Medicine Nurse Interest Group (AMNIG) AMNIG was established in 2012 under the aegis of the National Acute Medicine Programme (NAMP) to provide acute medicine nurses with an opportunity to guide, shape and influence the organisation and delivery of care to acutely unwell medical patients across the health service and particularly in acute hospitals. Its primary focus is to develop nursing roles, practices, procedures and guidelines whilst acting as an advisory body to the National programme team. There are currently 520 nurses working in acute medical units (AMAU/MAUs & AMSSUs) across 32 hospitals. AMNIG members are also requested to participate on National Policy committees such as developing nursing metrics for A MAUs, education programmes and Advancing Nurse Practice.

The framework developed over three years, which will add significantly to the currently limited body of knowledge on acute medicine nursing, includes a skills and competencies directory for nurses at core, specialist and Advanced practice levels. It was co-designed with front line nurses and nurse managers supported by extensive appreciative enquiry and quantitative methods, mapping to the presenting profiles of patients throughout Ireland and consultation with clinicians, nursing policy and regulatory bodies. It makes 20 recommendations for Service Delivery and Service Planning, Continuous Professional Development and for Research.

The publication, endorsed by the RCPI, Association of Directors of Nursing and Midwifery and Health Service Executive Clinical Strategy and Programmes Office has already entered implementation stages with the Office for the Nursing and Midwifery Services supporting two projects in 2016 i.e. design and provision of education to enhance clinical skills based on a nationwide needs assessment results of which was presented at SAM Edinburgh 2016 and an Expert Advisory Group to provide direction for the development of ANP posts in Acute Medicine across the care continuum.

Copies of the publication may be obtained by emailing richardp.walsh@hse, or gemmaleacy@rcpi.ie or by downloading from http://www.hse.ie/eng/about/Who/ONMSD/news/AMNIG_Symposium_and_Launch.html

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