

Setting Structure for CV Nursing Education

By Eileen Handberg, Ph.D., A.R.N.P., B.C.

When the Nurse Education Steering Committee was created, it set two major objectives for itself. One was to achieve accreditation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) as a provider of CE for the nurse Cardiac Care Associate members. The other was to develop a “Scope and Standards for Cardiovascular Nursing” document.

To that end, the ACC has provided the structure and support that enabled our committee to bring interested cardiovascular nursing organizations together to draft this document. As Chair of the writing group, I am pleased to report that we have had a highly successful collaboration with 14 nursing organizations and the American Nurses Association (ANA) to put this document together.

Our draft document was recently posted for public comment on www.acc.org, as well as on the Web sites belonging to the ANA and the other writing group member organizations. We are in the process now of reviewing comments and finalizing the document for each organization to review and approve. The Writing Group will then submit the final draft to the ANA for review and approval.

We hope to be able to release our final document in March or April of 2007. It is the intention of the group that the “Scope and Standards for Cardiovascular Nursing” will serve as a framework for professional education and development. It is our intention to use it at the ACC to help guide our educational program planning.

It is my sincere hope that the tremendous collaborative effort that has taken place with this writing group will continue beyond the publication of this document and bring additional wonderful opportunities for those of us in the cardiovascular nursing community.

Handberg is assistant professor of medicine, University of Florida, Gainesville

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Eileen Handberg

Heart Disease, Women and CCAs

By Suzanne Hughes, M.S.N., R.N.



Suzanne Hughes

Hart disease is the leading cause of death in women, and in fact, every year since 1984, more women than men have died from cardiovascular disease in the U.S. In recent years, national campaigns have embraced the message regarding the importance of prevention and risk factor modification in women. Surveys have demonstrated that the percentage of women who know that heart disease is their leading cause of death has risen from 30 percent to 55 percent between 1997 and 2006.¹

It is important that health care professionals in the cardiovascular

and primary care communities share important information with their female patients in the clinical setting. We also need to provide information about heart-healthy lifestyle modification in community and public health settings.

Members of the cardiac care community are ideal spokespersons for the message about heart disease in women. The knowledge and skills of Cardiac Care Associates — many of whom are incidentally part of the target demographic — make us ideal spokespersons for these important messages.

We hope that some of you will join us for “The Heart of Women’s Health” at the new Heart House, Jan. 26-27, 2007. This conference, planned for physicians, cardiac care team members and primary care practitioners, has assembled a faculty of experts to provide a clinical update for those who care for women with heart disease or at risk for its development.

1. Mosca L, Mochari H, Christian A, et al. National study of women’s awareness, preventive action, and barriers to cardiovascular health. *Circulation*. 2006 Jan 31;113(4):525-34.

Hughes is co-director of “The Heart of Women’s Health” program.

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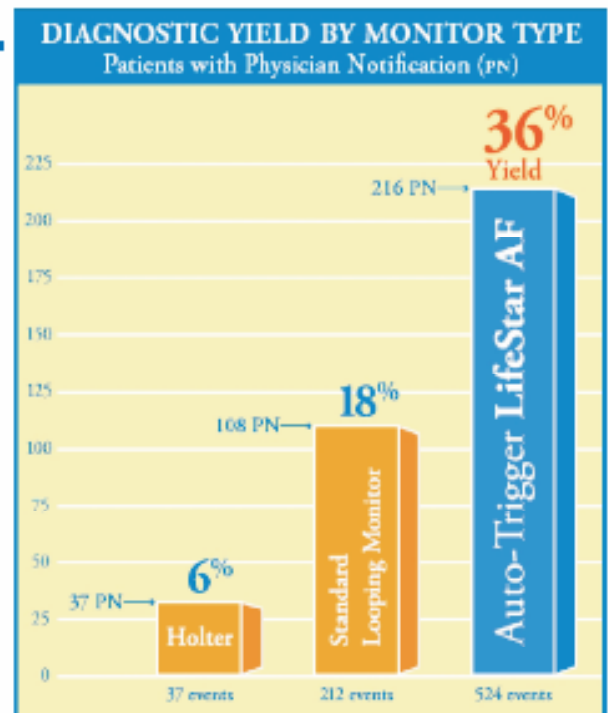
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