

# The Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations

## *Representing 28,700 Nurses*

American Academy  
of Nursing (AAN)  
Expert Panel on  
Aging

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American Assisted  
Living Nurses  
Association  
(AALNA)

•

American  
Association for Long  
Term Care Nursing  
(AALTCN)

•

American  
Association of Nurse  
Assessment  
Coordination  
(AANAC)

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Gerontological  
Advanced Practice  
Nurses Association  
(GAPNA)

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Hartford Institute for  
Geriatric Nursing  
College of Nursing  
New York University

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National Association  
of Directors of  
Nursing  
Administration in  
Long Term Care  
(NADONA/LTC)

•

National  
Gerontological  
Nursing Association  
(NGNA)

*caring with one voice*

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## **Purpose**

The Coalition of Geriatric Nursing Organizations' (CGNO), representing over 28,700 nurses is comprised of the leading associations representing nurses who provide geriatric care in a variety of clinical settings. By leveraging its collective strengths, the CGNO speaks with one voice to promote a health care environment for older adults that reflect accessibility, evidence-based practice, and high quality, person-centered care. Since its inception in 2001, the CGNO has been coordinated by the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing (HIGN) at New York University College of Nursing.

The CGNO pursues activities that enhance the competencies and status of nurses who work with older adults, with a particular emphasis on long term care. By advocating for practice standards and regulatory action that recognize the unique needs and worth of older adults, the CGNO aims to assure care that encourages the highest potential for function and quality of life in this population.

## Policy Partnerships

Currently two Institute of Medicine (IOM) reports, the 2010 *Future of Nursing: Advancing Health, Leading Change*, and the 2008, *Retooling for an Aging America*, provide platforms for many CGNO policy activities. The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation funded the AARP Center to Champion Nursing in America (CCNA) to focus on implementation of the IOM nursing recommendations with their non nursing partners, the Champion Nursing Coalition (CNC). The CGNO participates in the CCNA Leadership Council, which both guides and receives feedback on this implementation activity. Each CGNO organization is actively pursuing IOM implementation strategies to increase RN educational opportunities, strategically facilitate nurses for leadership positions, and remove barriers to practice. The CGNO is an active member of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance (EWA), a coalition of twenty-nine national organizations and funded by the Hartford and Atlantic Philanthropies Foundations. The EWA successfully supported inclusion of measures positively affecting direct care workers, models of care and professional education in the Accountable Care Act of 2010.

The CGNO exerts geriatric nursing leadership through participation in the Board of Directors of the Advancing Excellence Campaign in Americas Nursing Homes from its

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inception in 2006 as a national collaborative of consumers, providers, professionals, direct care workers, federal government agencies and funders, including the Commonwealth Fund. Almost half the 16,000 nursing homes voluntarily participate in the campaign, which provides guidance to nursing homes to improve staff stability and other organizational goals that are building blocks to improved clinical care as measured through quality measures such as restraints, pressure sores and pain.

### Education Partnerships

HIGN and the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), with support from the Commonwealth and Picker Funds, developed six on-line modules for the purpose of increasing schools of nursing use of nursing homes as clinical sites for undergraduate and graduate nursing students. In a series of three national webinars, over a 1000 schools of nursing and nursing homes were introduced to the persons-centered, evidence based content. This project illustrates the leveraging ability of the CGNO as both the webinars and the newly developed nursing culture change competencies imbedded in the modules were endorsed by the CGNO.

### Making a difference

The CGNO has made a positive difference in the care of older adults and the potential in the future remains unbounded. Indeed, in speaking with one voice in letters, committees and hearings, the CGNO takes leadership in shaping policy and legislation and improving regulations to benefit older adults. Visit the Hartford website @ [www.hartfordign.org](http://www.hartfordign.org), click on “Advocacy Policy” for more information about the CGNO. For additional information, contact [Hartford.IGN@nyu.edu](mailto:Hartford.IGN@nyu.edu).

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