NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings

The NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings is a resource based on the consensus of expert health care social workers from across the country and is designed to enhance social workers’ knowledge to work effectively in health care settings, within the current context of the health care environment. These Standards can be downloaded or purchased in print.

Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice

The Standards and Indicators for Cultural Competence in Social Work Practice reinforce the concept of “culture” as being inclusive beyond race and ethnicity; inclusive of, but not limited to, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, and religious identity or spirituality. The revised standards retain the concept of “competence” as an indicator of attitudes, knowledge, and skills that enable effective cross-cultural practice. As with any competency, there is the expectation of continual growth and learning. The standards revisit the way the social work profession engages in “leadership to advance cultural competence” within the profession, human services, and society at large and challenge structural and institutional oppression.

NASW Standards for Social Work Case Management

Case management dates its development to the emergence of the social work profession and remains integral to 21st-century social work practice. With its strengths-based, person-in-environment perspective, the social work profession is well trained to develop and improve support systems that advance the well-being of individuals, families, and communities. This expertise positions the social work profession as a leader within the field of case management. The NASW Standards for Social Work Case Management are designed to enhance social work case management and to help the public understand the professional social work role in case management.

NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Palliative and End of Life Care

All social workers, regardless of practice settings, will inevitably work with clients facing acute or long-term situations involving life-limiting illness, dying, death, grief, and bereavement. The NASW Standards for Palliative & End of Life Care are designed to enhance social workers’ awareness of the skills, knowledge, values, methods, and sensitivities needed to work effectively with clients, families, health care providers, and the community when working in end of life situations.

Implementing Smoking Cessation into Your Social Work Practice

Social workers can advance smoking cessation efforts to promote health among individuals, families, and communities. Find out more about the health impact of tobacco products and the tools that are available for social workers to address tobacco use in their practice.

MEDICAID AT RISK: Understanding Proposals to Limit Medicaid Benefits through Block Grants and Per Capita Caps

NASW is against proposals to reduce Medicaid spending through block grants or per capita caps. Medicaid is a critical benefit to women, vulnerable populations, and those living with chronic physical and mental health conditions. Learn more about this issue and how you can get involved.

Perinatal Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings

The Guidelines for Perinatal Social Work Practice in Health Care Settings adapts the NASW Standards for Social Work Practice in Health Settings and applies it to the specialty of...
perinatal practice. The guidelines provide the reader with information about the types of issues that perinatal social workers address and the typical work settings for perinatal social workers. The guidelines are informed by perinatal experts and serve as a resource. The guidelines are meant to improve understanding of perinatal social work practice and provide useful information that can be applied to multiple perinatal settings, family structures, medical and social situations.

Health Care in 2017 Practice Alert
It's important for social workers to be aware of the factors that may shift the health care landscape and impact the communities we serve with the incoming Administration. To learn about anticipated changes and find out more about coalitions that are organizing, please visit our website.

2016 Affordable Care Act Social Work Update
Since the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (ACA) was enacted, remarkable gains have been made in the number of people in the United States with health insurance coverage. The ACA has encouraged the development of new health care models, greater access to behavioral health and medical services, and more consistent access to health care for vulnerable populations than ever before. Awareness of these trends can enhance the role that social workers serve in connecting clients to appropriate health care resources and increasing health literacy.

OTHER NASW RESOURCES
Social Work Policy Institute Critical Conversation:
SOCIAL WORK IN HEALTH & BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE
This is an opportune time to highlight the essential and varied roles that social workers play in achieving better health outcomes and improved psychosocial well-being for individuals, families and communities. This report articulates a vision for social work in the increasingly complex health and behavioral health care service delivery arena and makes recommendations to achieve this vision. socialworkpolicy.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/10/CritConvBrief.pdf

SPECIALTY PRACTICE SECTIONS
The Health Specialty Practice Section (SPS) provides resources for social workers in health settings to stay updated on practice issues, policy changes and the latest research. SPS also provides NASW members with free Continuing Education credits. For more information, visit NASW’s Specialty Practice Section page. socialworkers.org/sections

NASW Advocacy
NASW conducts advocacy efforts to advance public policy on health care issues that impact social work professionals and consumers. NASW updates members through advocacy alerts on timely issues and submits written comments on federal legislation, regulation and initiatives. Recent alerts have focused on efforts to repeal and replace the Affordable Care Act. socialworkers.org/advocacy

Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) Grant
The NASW Foundation and the Council on Social Work Education jointly offer the Social Work Health Care Education and Leadership Scholars (HEALS) Grant, which works to strengthen the education and training of future health care social workers. naswfoundation.org/social_work_heals.asp

NASW News
NASW News covers the latest topics in Health Care Social Work including an April 2017 feature on Nephrology Social Work and articles on HEALS Grant events with students, faculty and field instructors. socialworkers.org/pubs/news/archives

NASW Press
The NASW Press is a leading scholarly press in the social sciences. The Press delivers professional information to readers through journals, books and reference works including Health & Social Work. For 20 years, human services professionals have relied on Health & Social Work for the latest advances in areas such as aging, clinical work, long-term care, oncology, substance abuse, depression, and maternal health. Articles also cover research, policy, specialized services, quality assurance, in-service training, and other topics that affect the delivery of health care services. naswpess.org/publications/journals/hsw.html

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