American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing

Many settings. Multiple roles. One unifying specialty.

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Future of Nursing 2020-2030 Town Hall: High Tech to High Touch
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Public Comments, 2-minute presentation of talking points

My name is Kathy Mertens. I am the Past President of the American Academy of Ambulatory Care Nursing, and Associate Chief Nurse at Harborview Medical Center here in Seattle.

As care delivery migrates from hospitals and clinics to homes and community settings, the future of nursing must support technology development and integration across locations and teams that include individuals, their families, and their caregivers.

Digital services lift many barriers – time and distance, social determinants, and provider access. Evidence shows positive outcomes with many technology-enhanced interventions.

Ambulatory care nurses are well positioned to deliver this "connected" care to individuals and populations in these diverse locations.

Professional nursing is essential given the volume of care and education needed to manage, interpret, and analyze data, and integrate technology.

We see emerging care models incorporating virtual care tools, and complex health data shared through wearables, sensors, and digital tools that impact the timeliness and scope of data.

Population health data allow nurses to use proactive approaches for promoting health and preventing disease. RNs now track and monitor the health of individuals within a population, not just those who seek care.

Such advancements require data collection from multiple sources, analysis, and risk segmentation.

Challenges include data availability, integrity, and interpretation for action, or simply, access to technology for those individuals most in need.

As the committee charts nursing's path for the next 10 years, please consider the following:

1. Advocate for technology development and integration into care, including artificial intelligence to support clinical decision making, care coordination, and population health approaches.

2. Champion data standards and data collection.

3. Train nurses and executives in population approaches and technology enhanced interventions.

Thank you.