



Established in 1969

American Nephrology Nurses' Association

November 4, 2004
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Information: Janet D'Alesandro
(856) 256-2422; janetd@ajj.com

This release is available
on-line at www.annanurse.org

American Nephrology Nurses' Association (ANNA) Offers Free Education Program for Nurses Working in Long Term Care

Pitman, NJ – The American Nephrology Nurses' Association has developed a free six-part educational series designed for nurses who care for nephrology patients in alternative settings.

ANNA has released the first module in the learning series, **Stage 5 Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) – Hemodialysis in the Long Term Care (LTC) Setting**, which can be viewed online or downloaded in a variety of formats on the ANNA Web site, www.annanurse.org. ANNA will release the other five modules over the next few years.

The series is entitled **Partnering for Quality Care, a CE Program for Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) Clinicians** and will address nurses' learning needs related to CKD patients. Other modules will include in-depth information on the different stages of the disease as well as peritoneal dialysis, pediatrics, and transplantation.

According to Susan C. Cronin, MS, RN, chairperson of ANNA's LTC/CKD Ad Hoc Committee, chronic kidney disease is a growing problem worldwide, with an estimated 23 million people in the U.S. at some stage of CKD. Providers have seen a continuing increase in the number of people over 65 who need dialysis, she added, and these patients are potentially at increased risk due to age, complex diagnoses, and morbidity.

"CKD patients are being seen and followed by nurses in many nursing care settings," Cronin said. "Early identification and treatment are imperative to slowing the progression, preventing morbidity, and reducing the acuity and the associated costs. Nurses in the long term care setting can make a huge impact on the morbidity, mortality, and quality of life for those patients on dialysis and living in LTC."

Cronin said ANNA developed the first module of the series on LTC "because we wanted to focus on an area of care that would help a large number of patients." She said the module will benefit not only nurses in LTC, but nurses who care for dialysis-dependent patients in many other areas.

All materials in the first module are in Adobe Acrobat (PDF) format and include a slide handout with notes, a posttest/evaluation form, and a PowerPoint slide file. The first module provides 1.5 contact hours of continuing education credit for a fee of \$20 for ANNA members or \$30 for nonmembers.

--more--

The CKD learning series is funded in part through unrestricted education grants from Bone Care International and the American Nurses Association, Nurse Competence on Aging.

For more information, visit the ANNA Web site, www.annanurse.org, or contact the association at East Holly Avenue/Box 56, Pitman, NJ 08071-0056; toll free: 888-600-2662; phone: 856-256-2320; e-mail: anna@ajj.com.

###

ANNA is a professional nursing association comprised of more than 11,500 nephrology nurses. The association is dedicated to advancing nephrology nursing practice and positively influencing outcomes for patients with kidney or other disease processes requiring replacement therapies through advocacy, scholarship, and excellence.