National RN Case Manager Certificate Program

Reading Guide: Health Policy Shaping System Change & Access to Health Care

1. The State of the ACA Report (DHHS, 2022)
   Good Summary. This report, released by the Biden-Harris administration, summarizes the progress made since the passage of the Affordable Care Act in 2010 and includes a description of additional gains made as a result of the passage of the American Rescue Plan of 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic. Helpful to read using an "access to care" policy lens.

2. What's at Stake for Nurses and Patients without the ACA (ANA Infographic)
   Quick Look. This ANA Infographic is a quick illustration of nursing' professional commitment to the ACA within the context of access, cost, quality, and workforce development.

3. ACO Care Coordination Toolkit (CMS, 2019)
   Important Read. Medicare is the primary driver of ACO models of care to improve outcomes for Medicare beneficiaries. This is the first of a set of CMS Toolkits we will be using throughout this program. This Care Coordination Toolkit describes a variety of strategies used by ACOs to ensure patients receive high quality and efficient care coordination across settings including the ED, SNF, Discharge Home Transitions and chronic care.

4. ACO Care Transformation Toolkit (CMS, 2021)
   Important Read p. 1-6. This Toolkit describes ACOs' strategies for developing and implementing programs that transform the delivery of care. Whether or not you are practicing as part of an ACO, this is an important read because these strategies are being used across systems. Understanding the systems changes that are occurring around us is important in being able to implement your role effectively and let's face it, often nurses are not included in these conversations. Hang onto this Toolkit because we will come back to it during the Technology and Long Term Supports and Services topics.

5. Defining the Patient Centered Medical Home (AHRQ, 2021)
   Short Read with Key Components & Links. AHRQ is the driver on the development and implementation of PCMHs. Although PCMH is most often described as a model to transform the organization and delivery of primary care, thinking of it as a complex intervention may also be an important way to think about the implementation of the RNCM role in the PCMH.

6. Ensuring that PCMHs Effectively Serve Patients with Complex Health Needs (AHRQ Brief, 2011)
   Classic Read. Reviewing this AHRQ brief released shortly after the passage of the ACA, allows us to look back at the vision for PCMHs based on the demonstration projects done leading up to the ACA and compare its progress with where we are today.

7. What Is a Patient Centered Medical Home? (PCPCC Infographic)
   Patient Education Tool. The Patient Centered Primary Care Collaborative created this infographic as an education tool to help patients better understand changes occurring in primary care.

8. Mandate from the pandemic: Nurses as policy leaders. (Int Nsg Review, 2022)
   2 page Viewpoint Article. This short read is a thought provoking look at important call for nurses to become more involved in health policy. Made even more visible by the COVID-19 pandemic, the call has strengthened for nurses to not only participate in policy development and discussions but to lead them. This is an important nursing conversation that is occurring internationally.

9. Medicare Payment for RN Services & Care Coordination (ANA Executive Summary, 2017)
   Executive Summary. This paper summarizes how Medicare pays for the services of nurses under its various payment systems, reviews Medicare payment for patient care coordination and how these care coordination programs might compensate nursing services and addresses various proposals to provide better access to or more favorable payment for nursing services that could be adopted either legislatively or though regulation.

10. Medicare Payment for RN Services & Care Coordination (ANA Full Report, 2017)
    Optional. Posted for RNCM Leaders and those interested.