The American Nephrology Nurses Association (ANNA) will continue to work independently and in collaboration with state kidney care and professional nursing coalitions to identify and respond to health policy issues that affect the practice of nephrology nurses and the individuals for whom we provide care. ANNA will monitor state and regulatory bodies for action impacting the care of the Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD) population and nephrology nursing practice.

Priorities for Medicaid Payment System Related Issues
1. Monitor policies related to state Medicaid payment systems impacting the CKD population.
2. Advocate for access to care for the CKD population including complete, quality, and evidence-based care.
3. Endorse health policy initiatives that promote organ donation and increase transplantation.
4. Advocate for state legislation and funding for initiatives to prevent or slow the progression of CKD and for patient education programs on treatment options.

Priorities for State Boards of Nursing Related Issues
1. Monitor for regulation changes impacting nephrology nursing.
2. Advocate for initiatives to ensure registered nurses and advanced practice registered nurses (APRN) are able to practice to the full scope of their educational preparation and license.
3. Continue efforts to define advanced nursing practice and expand reimbursement for APRNs.
4. Advocate and support all states signing the Nurse Licensure Compact to facilitate disaster response and to protect nurses who provide telehealth support to patients in remote areas.

Priorities for Nursing and General State Health Policy Issues
1. Monitor proposed state legislation potentially impacting the CKD population.
2. Monitor and participate on State Kidney Coalitions.
3. Monitor and continue involvement with various public and private quality improvement initiatives.
4. Advocate for legislation, funding and other regulatory initiatives to address the nursing faculty shortage.
5. Advocate for fair and consistent work environments and removal of geographic and practice setting limitations across the country for APRNs.
6. Monitor legislation that impacts mandatory overtime.
7. Advocate for staffing decisions to be made as close to the patient as possible, by registered nurses, and based on the needs of the individual patient.
8. Advocate for the use of a patient acuity classification system.
9. Advocate for further research on nursing models of care to help guide the nephrology nurse in planning staffing models to deliver care that promotes optimal patient outcomes.
10. Advocate for restricting use of the title "nurse" to only those individuals who have fulfilled the requirements for licensure as a registered nurse as outlined in each state's nurse practice act.
11. Advocate for legislative initiatives related to nursing education to include efforts to recruit and retain nurses.
12. Advocate for legislative initiatives related to patient and personnel safety.
13. Advocate for improved patient handling techniques to protect registered nurses and other health care workers from debilitating injuries.
14. Advocate for the establishment of comprehensive prevention programs in health care settings to address work place violence.
The Health Policy Priorities are reviewed and reaffirmed biennially.