Nurse Executives: Driving Change in the Era of COVID-19 analyzes the priorities and preparedness of today’s nurse leadership from a survey of healthcare stakeholders. The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the shortcomings of the US healthcare system, requiring nurse executives to focus on key strategic imperatives for lasting change. Nurse executives are poised to drive decision-making, strengthen the wellbeing of their staff, build resiliency into the workforce, and challenge the status quo.

Seven Strategic Imperatives for Nurse Executives

1. Champion Workforce Policy Changes
   - Proactively shape nursing workforce policies to focus on career satisfaction and advancement.

2. Foster Fluidity
   - Formalize alternative care-delivery models so they are agile and flexible.
   - Team-nursing models that focus on collaborative and expanded core competencies.
   - Cross-training that allows nurses to become fully functional as independent care professionals in new units.

3. Bring Nursing Home
   - Get Social
     - Build social determinants of health (SDoH) into the bones of care-delivery models. Leverage nurses to interpret social factors and contribute to integrated, people-centered care.

4. Strengthen Community Care
   - Foster programs that make nurses change agents of community care. Work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify meaningful and sustainable community strategies.

5. Elevate Education
   - Expand education and clinical training programs for new nurses.

6. Follow the Evidence
   - Manage care variability by accessing to the same evidence-based resources across disciplines.

The top 3 nurse executive priorities include:
- Reduce nurse burnout
- Improve training and increase competencies to prepare new nurses
- Ensure a safe and healthy work environment

Engage in health policy making to advance the use of nurse-led telehealth models: the window into the home. Nurse-led models of telehealth enable nurses to work at the top of their licensure and scope of practice.

- #1
- #3

1 billion telehealth visits by end of 2020 in the US

88% of nurse executives agree that more-comprehensive patient information is needed to achieve better care—and that includes access to quality data that recognizes a patient’s social and/or lifestyle needs.

Foster programs that make nurses change agents of community care. Work collaboratively with stakeholders to identify meaningful and sustainable community strategies.

- Community engagement is a top priority for nursing.
- Nurse executives want to mobilize nurses to become change agents who bridge the delivery of care and the social needs of care in the community.

- #1
- #3

76% agree that we need to better align care teams so that everyone is practicing based on the same evidence.

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