AAOHN Position Statements

by Judith Ostendorf, MPH, RN, COHN-S, CCM, FAAOHN

Guided by its vision and mission, the American Association of Occupational Health Nurses, Inc. (AAOHN) is the voice for occupational and environmental health nursing practice. AAOHN’s vision includes that all work and workplace community environments be healthy and safe. Its mission is to ensure that occupational and environmental health nurses are the authority on health, safety, productivity, and disability management for worker populations. AAOHN achieves its mission through several activities, one of which is to guide the profession by providing several products and services to address occupational and environmental health nurses’ distinct roles.

AAOHN’s position statements are developed to explain, justify, or recommend a course of action that reflects the organization’s position on specific topics. The AAOHN Practice Committee consists of nurse leaders in various fields of practice who review, revise, and develop practice, education, and guidance products. The work of this committee, performed during the past year, has resulted in nine position statements.

Each topic was assigned to occupational and environmental health experts who reviewed, researched, and revised their specific topics. On completion, the committee then reviewed and further discussed the position statements prior to final approval by the AAOHN Board of Directors. The nine position statements were posted on the AAOHN website under the Practice link and each of the statements will be published in Workplace Health & Safety during the next 9 months.

AAOHN has taken positions on the following issues related to occupational and environmental health nursing practice:

- All-Hazard Preparedness: The Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Role
- Case Management: The Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Role
- Confidentiality of Worker Health Information
- Delivery of Occupational and Environmental Health Services
- Emergency Medical Technicians, including Paramedics, in the Workplace
- Health and Productivity: The Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Role
- The Licensed Practical/Vocational Nurse in Occupational and Environmental Health
- Occupational Health Surveillance
- Preventing Workplace Violence: The Occupational and Environmental Health Nurse Role

During the coming year, the Practice Committee will continue to develop new position statements on topics such as consulting and advanced practitioners in occupational and environmental health nursing.