

# **ANIA Statement: Importance of a Unique Nursing Identifier**

Position Statement of the American Nursing Informatics  
Association Board of Directors



**American Nursing Informatics Association**

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#### **Authors**

**Katherine Taylor Pearson, DNP, RN-BC, CLSSBB, CPHIMS, CPBI, CKM**  
**Mark Heyward Johnson, MHA, BSN, RN-BC, CPHIMS**  
**Christy St. John, MSN, RN-BC, CPHQ**  
**Kathleen Morouse, DNP, RN-BC, CCRN-K**

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# ANIA Statement: Importance of a Unique Nursing Identifier using the NCSBN ID

Purpose: The purpose of this position statement is to affirm the American Nursing Informatics Association's (ANIA) support for the critical importance of establishing a unique nursing identifier to enhance patient safety, improve nursing practice, and advance healthcare delivery. The National Council of State Boards of Nursing Identifier (NCSBN ID) is a standardized and universally recognized identification system for nurses that offers numerous benefits and opportunities across healthcare settings. This position statement outlines the significance of implementing a unique nursing identifier utilizing the NCSBN ID and the key considerations for its successful adoption.

Position Statement: ANIA supports the unique nursing identifier using the NCSBN ID. Therefore, in alignment with the Alliance for Nursing Informatics (ANI), ANIA recommends the following considerations for successful adoption.

Collaboration and Standardization: ANIA advocates for collaboration among nursing organizations, regulatory bodies, healthcare institutions, and health information technology vendors and believes this is crucial for successful adoption.

Privacy and Security: ANIA also supports strong measures to be in place to protect the confidentiality of nursing identifiers and associated health information, adhering to relevant legal and ethical standards.

Education and Training: Comprehensive education and training programs should be provided to nurses and healthcare professionals to ensure a clear understanding of the purpose, benefits, and appropriate use of the NCSBN ID. This promotes its successful integration into nursing practice and healthcare systems.

Advocacy and Support: Advocacy efforts should be undertaken to promote the adoption of a unique nursing identifier using the NCSBN ID at the legislative, regulatory, and organizational levels. Resources, technical support, and ongoing guidance should be provided to healthcare institutions and professionals to facilitate smooth implementation and utilization.

Background: The NCSBN ID is a unique identifier assigned to individual nurses by the NCSBN. It is generated for each registered nurse and licensed practical/vocational nurse when they take the NCLEX examination. It is a standardized identifier that ensures accurate identification and tracking of nurses across various healthcare settings, regardless of geographic location or practice area. The NCSBN ID has the potential to be a powerful tool for promoting interoperability, facilitating the exchange of health information, and supporting seamless care transitions.

It is also important to note that the National Provider Identifier (NPI) is a different, unique identifier and is primarily used for providers who submit claims and prescriptions. Nurses must actively apply to obtain an NPI; however, in contrast, the NCSBN ID is automatically generated through the licensure process.

Conclusion: ANIA recognizes the critical importance of a unique nursing identifier utilizing the NCSBN ID. Data collected using this information has the potential to enhance patient safety, improve nursing practice, and advance healthcare delivery. We call upon all nursing organizations, regulatory bodies, healthcare institutions, and policymakers to support the widespread adoption and implementation of a unique nursing identifier, using the NCSBN ID, to promote high-quality, patient-centered care.

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