

Date: September 20, 2024



Oregon Center for  
N U R S I N G

# FRIDAY HUDDLE

A gathering of Oregon nursing workforce leaders to offer timely updates and share insights from peers and stakeholders.

## Nursing Workforce

**Annual Immunization Toolkit:** As we enter cold and flu season, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services launched its new “Risk Less. Do More.” campaign, which includes numerous resources to help nurses and healthcare providers educate at-risk clients on the risk of severe flu, COVID-19, and RSV. The printable handouts and posters are [available online](#).

**Upcoming OSBN Happenings:** The Oregon State Board of Nursing (OSBN) will host a Division 21 RAC Meeting on October 10 at 1 p.m., addressing the current language around nursing education. Those interested are welcome to join the virtual meeting to hear more about the ongoing discussion of proposed changes. Find dial-in information for this and other upcoming meetings on [the OSBN website](#). In addition, the Board publishes live streams and replays of its monthly meetings on the [OSBN YouTube channel](#). You can also receive updates to your inbox when you subscribe to the [OSBN listserv](#). Finally, Huddlers reaffirmed the opportunity for public commentary at monthly meetings as an essential avenue to speak up about patient outcomes and advocate for the nursing profession.

**Remembering COVID-19:** Huddlers discussed the lingering impact that the COVID-19 pandemic had on the nursing community—especially as we approach the fifth anniversary in March 2025. Many agree that the continued trauma still drives heavy emotions for nursing professionals. Some organizations have sought ways to create space for remembrance and healing, such as [onsite memorial gardens](#). However, Huddlers also recognize the importance of reflecting on the past five years and sharing stories of the lessons learned to prepare for the future.

**Training Medication Aides and Other Uncertified Staff:** Huddlers also explored the process of developing training programs and resources for uncertified care positions, particularly in long-term care facilities. Certified medication aides are limited in Oregon. Furthermore, OSBN has limited oversight around training non-certified medication aides, and there are no processes for managing these employees. Huddlers agreed that comprehensive training, using resources such as [Oregon Care Partners](#), and peer-to-peer mentorship programs, are powerful strategies for improving the quality of care and ensuring resident safety.

## Events and Happenings

**Recent Oregon Nursing Community Events:** This week, the Oregon Center for Nursing hosted its 2024 Outstanding Nurse Preceptors Award Ceremony. You can rewatch the entire award ceremony on our [YouTube Channel](#). In addition, Nurses of Color Collective, in collaboration with OSBN and UPSONHI, hosted a documentary screening and panel discussion of the documentary, “Everybody's Work: Healing What Hurts Us All. Examining what is being done to address racism in nursing and healthcare.” If you missed the event, you can explore [other ways to watch the film](#). Learn about other upcoming events using the [OCN Event Calendar](#).

### Next Friday Huddle:

Friday, September 27, at 8:00 a.m.

[Register Here!](#)

### Find OCN Online:

[www.oregoncenterfornursing.org](http://www.oregoncenterfornursing.org)

