

TOPIC: **IN SUPPORT OF NURSES EDUCATING PARENTS OF INTERSEX INFANTS ON ALL AVAILABLE APPROACHES TO CARE**

SUBMITTED BY: **Duquesne University Student Nurses' Association, Pittsburgh, PA**

AUTHORS: **Sarah Dudley, Chelsea Kwong, Alexa Mandak, Amanda Matkovic, Erin Mcfadden, Christine Mckeon, Maura O' Shea, and Holly Storm**

1 WHEREAS, approximately one in 2,000 infants is born having “intersex traits”, which describes a
2 reproductive anatomy that is unable to fall under the definitions of male or female, and
3 can include androgen insensitivity syndrome, some forms of congenital adrenal
4 hyperplasia, Klinefelter syndrome, Turner syndrome, and others; and
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6 WHEREAS, traditionally, in the event that an infant presented with ambiguous sexual parts, they
7 have been surgically treated and assigned a sex. The situation is treated like that of a
8 medical emergency; and
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10 WHEREAS, the surgeries may have lasting, irreversible effects, including scarring, incontinence,
11 sterility, impotence, and the subsequent need for lifelong treatment, including hormone
12 replacement therapy; and
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14 WHEREAS, normalizing surgery continues to be the standard of care for these infants; and
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16 WHEREAS, optimal care for the intersex infant and family involves effective communication and
17 education from a team of experienced health professionals; and
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19 WHEREAS, the nurse’s primary care role reflects the individualized needs of the patient and their
20 family, with whom the nurse should engage in open communication regarding available
21 resources, capacity for self-care, and treatment options; and
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23 WHEREAS, the nurse caring for the intersex infant should be able to offer information on sources of
24 support available to the parents and family of the individual, and provide adequate
25 education in regards to the individual’s special needs; therefore be it
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27 RESOLVED, that the National Student Nurses' Association (NSNA) encourage its members to ensure
28 parents and families of intersex infants receive honest and complete education from
29 their healthcare providers about their child's condition and all suitable approaches to
30 care; and be it further
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32 RESOLVED, that the NSNA publish an article in *Imprint* to educate its constituents about intersex
33 infants and all available approaches to care, if feasible; and be it further
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35 RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage nurse educators to include discussion of care of intersex
36 infants in their curricula; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, that the NSNA encourage its constituents to be aware of support organizations in their
36 area for intersex infants and their families and that they be prepared to refer families to
37 such organizations if they encounter the need to do so in their clinical practice; and be it
38 further
39 RESOLVED, that the NSNA send a copy of this resolution to the American Academy of Neonatal
40 Nursing, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Association of Colleges of
41 Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the Association of Women's Health, Obstetric
42 and Neonatal Nurses, the National League for Nursing, the National Organization for
43 Associate Degree Nursing, and all others deemed appropriate by the NSNA Board of
44 Directors.