

## Nursing Shortage Webcast on kaisernetwork.org

According to the federal Bureau of Health Professions, there was a national shortfall of 110,000 nurses in 2000, about six percent of the current nursing workforce of 1.9 million. By 2020, the number of nurses is expected to rise to only 2 million but an estimated 2.8 million will be needed, resulting in a shortfall of nearly 30 percent. A study by the Joint Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Organizations found that low nurse staffing levels were a contributing factor in nearly a quarter of <sup>3</sup>unanticipated problems<sup>2</sup> resulting in injury or death to hospital patients. At this Alliance for Health Reform briefing, <sup>3</sup>The Nursing Shortage: Today and Tomorrow,<sup>2</sup> panelists address the following questions:

- \* How acute is the nursing shortage now, and how bad will it be in the coming years?
- \* What can we learn from past nursing shortages?
- \* What concrete solutions do employers, the nursing profession and the government have?
- \* How can we make nursing more attractive to minorities, an increasing portion of the population?
- \* How much will the Nurse Reinvestment Act, enacted this year, help solve the problem?

Panelists include: Edward O'Neil, director of the Center for the Health Professions at University of California, San Francisco; Kerry P. Nesseler, associate administrator of the Bureau of Health Professions at HHS; Barbara Blakeney, president, American Nurses Association; Maureen White, chief nurse executive, North Shore-Long Island Jewish Health System. Ed Howard, executive vice president of the Alliance, moderates the discussion.

View the webcast at: <http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/alliance/17oct02>

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Some previous webcasts related to nursing issues include:

"The Nursing Shortage: Causes, Impact and Innovative Remedies" 9/25/2001  
House Committee on Education and the Workforce, Washington DC  
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/education/sep01>  
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/education&workforce/sep01>

"Addressing Direct Care Staffing Shortages" 5/17/2001  
Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee, Washington, DC  
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/help/nursing/may01>

"The Future of Health Care Labor Force in a 'Graying Society'" 5/9/2001  
University of Illinois, Nursing Institute, Washington, DC  
<http://www.kaisernetwork.org/healthcast/nursing/may01>

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