

**BY ORDER OF THE
SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE**

AIR FORCE POLICY DIRECTIVE 46-1

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Nursing

NURSING SERVICES

COMPLIANCE WITH THIS PUBLICATION IS MANDATORY

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OVERVIEW/BACKGROUND

This Directive implements the following statutes for the Nursing Service and its activities in medical care worldwide: Title 10, United States Code, Sections 1071-110b when applied to Nursing Services. This Directive establishes Air Force nursing services policy to ensure the highest standards of nursing care, nursing practice and professional performance are applied to all aspects of nursing care provided to eligible beneficiaries. This Directive applies to all nursing services personnel who deliver and/or monitor health care services in active duty medical treatment facilities, Air Force Reserve Medical Units, Air National Guard Medical Groups, Aeromedical Evacuation Squadrons, communities, and deployed locations. Nursing services personnel are referred to as Total Nurse Force which includes Nurse Corps officer, enlisted, civilian & contractor. Refer recommended changes and questions about this publication to the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) using the AF Form 847, Recommendation for Change of Publication; route AF Forms 847 from the field through appropriate functional chain of command. Ensure that all records created as a result of processes prescribed in this publication are maintained IAW Air Force Manual (AFMAN) 33-363, Management of Records, and disposed of IAW the Air Force Records Disposition Schedule (RDS) in the Air Force Records Information Management System (AFRIMS). Requests for policy clarification or waivers to this directive should be sent to usaf.pentagon.af-sg.mbx.af-sg-workflow@mail.mil.

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

This document is substantially revised and must be completely reviewed.

Revisions have been made to this document. Education & training has been changed to nursing competency. References have been updated.

1. Policy . The Air Force Medical Service will:

- 1.1. Provide nursing services personnel to perform nursing activities that meet the Air Force Medical Service strategy, mission and vision throughout the globe in various locations.
- 1.2. Establish and evaluate programs for nursing service management, force development, nursing competency, standards of care and practice, utilization, and the integration of nursing in medical readiness, operational support, and health of the beneficiaries.
- 1.3. Comply with professional nursing ethics and standards for nursing practice. This includes but is not limited to: national professional nursing organizations, state license legislation (nurse practice acts), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, The Joint Commission and other appropriate federal, national and state agencies.
- 1.4. Deliver high quality nursing, utilizing systems and processes of high reliability to become a learning and improving organization with a single-minded focus on safety.

2. Roles and Responsibilities : The Air Force Surgeon General develops all policy and guidance with the coordination and concurrence of SAF/MR IAW HAFMD 1-48, A4.1.1 and A4.1.2, concerning the Air Force Medical Service.

HEATHER A. WILSON
Secretary of the Air Force

Attachment 1**GLOSSARY OF REFERENCES AND SUPPORTING INFORMATION*****References***

AFMAN 33-363, *Management of Records*, 2 June 2017

HAFMD 1-48, *HAF Mission Directive*, 7 May 2015

Adopted Forms

AF Form 847, *Recommendation for Change of Publication*, 22 September 2009

Abbreviations and Acronyms

AF—Air Force

AFMAN —Air Force Manual

AFRIMS —Air Force Records Information Management System

HAFMD —Headquarters Air Force Mission Directive

RDS —Records Disposition Schedule

SG —Surgeon General

Terms

Nursing— Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, communities, and populations (American Nurses Association; <http://nursingworld.org/EspeciallyForYou/What-is-Nursing>).

Nursing Care— Professional processes of assessment, diagnosis, planning, implementation, and evaluation based on the art and science of nursing to promote health, its recovery, or a peaceful and dignified death. This includes, but is not limited to assisting individuals, families, communities, and/or populations in understanding health needs and carrying out therapeutic plans and activities (The Joint Commission).

Standards of Nursing Practice— Standards of nursing practice developed by the American Nurses' Association (ANA) provide guidelines for nursing performance. They are the rules or definition of what it means to provide competent care.