



January 28, 2022

Nakela L. Cook, MD, MPH
1828 L Street NW
Suite 900
Washington, DC 20036

Dear Dr. Cook:

On behalf of the Association of Rehabilitation Nurses (ARN), representing more than 4,500 rehabilitation nurses and more than 14,000 certified rehabilitation registered nurses that work to enhance the quality of life for those affected by physical disability and/or chronic illness, thank you for the opportunity to submit comments in response to the PCORI Proposed Research Agenda. ARN strongly supports PCORI and its proposed research agenda, and urges an emphasis on these patient populations, which may include individuals with chronic illness, intellectual or developmental disabilities or physical disabilities resulting from a stroke, spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury. These are populations often requiring rehabilitation care and should be included in PCORI's Research Agenda and in its implementation.

Rehabilitation nursing is a philosophy of care, not a work setting or a phase of treatment. We base our practice on rehabilitative and restorative principles by (1) managing complex medical issues; (2) collaborating with other specialists; (3) providing ongoing patient and caregiver education; (4) setting goals for maximum independence; and (5) establishing plans of care to maintain optimal wellness. Rehabilitation nurses are irreplaceable members of the care team that helps patients regain function and achieve optimal wellness. Rehabilitation nurses practice in all settings, wherever rehabilitation services are provided, including in SNFs, freestanding rehabilitation facilities, hospitals, long-term subacute care facilities, long-term acute care facilities, comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities, home health, and private practices. Rehabilitation nurses practice alongside psychiatrists, occupational therapists, physical therapists and others optimize patient health.

ARN appreciates the inclusion in the PCORI Proposed Research Agenda of research that fills patient- and stakeholder-prioritized evidence gaps, representative of diverse patient populations and settings with an aim to achieve health equity and eliminate health disparities. ARN urges the recognition of patients requiring rehabilitative care – including those with disabilities – in PCORI's understanding of diverse patient populations in need of representation and prioritization. Conceptions of diversity should also include a focus on diversity of setting, to include care provided in outpatient, inpatient, and post-acute settings. The needs of rehabilitation patients vary widely, as does the location of their care. ARN urges PCORI to implement its research agenda with an eye towards the needs of this diverse patient population, recognizing the complexity of rehabilitative care.

ARN appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in response to the PCORI Proposed Research Agenda. If you have any questions, please contact me or ARN's Health Policy Associate, Jeremy Scott (jscott@dc-crd.com). Thank you for your consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jill Rye". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Jill Rye, DNP, RN, CRRN, CNL, FARN
President, Association of Rehabilitation Nursing