

Partners in **NURSE ADVANCEMENT**

OUR MISSION PharMerica and NADONA are teaming to provide new resources, education, and information along with additional insights from DONs and Pharmacy Consultants for improved outcomes, care excellence, and a bright future for nurses.

What is your role at NADONA?

I am the vice president of NADONA. It's a position that's voted in by members. The board is all volunteers, who are voted into office by members.

How did you become involved?

Back in 1990, I started a job in the Lansing, Michigan, area as an assistant director of nursing. I found out about this organization and started asking questions and doing research. I joined because I was new in my role, as was our DON, and wanted support, knowledge, and guidance. I became active in the Michigan state chapter and have been the past president in Michigan.

What does NADONA's mission mean to you?

We want to be the premier organization for nurses in the long-term and post-acute care arenas. We support our members through education and set up mentorships so nurses have someone they can call to ask questions or get guidance, and even share policies and procedures. We also offer certifications in areas like infection control, leadership, and QAPI, and there are certifications for LPNs also, if you want to raise the level of your staff nurses. We are the only organization truly geared to our environment.

How does NADONA help nurses advance their careers?

We help by offering certification to become a director of nursing so you can present yourself as a certified DON because you've passed the board exam and have a verified skill set. The other part is that we work with RNs who want to be DONs or nurse managers. Those nurses can join and participate in education and earn certifications, which will set them up for future growth. There's also lot of opportunity for networking, so you get to know people. Through my involvement with NADONA, I have made contacts and friends across the US. We have partnerships with companies involved in our business and together we develop education programs, host them, and enlighten hundreds of nurses in our area of long-term and post-acute care.

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– **Shari Carson**

RN, BN, NHA, CDP CDONA,
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NADONA Vice President

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What impact does NADONA have on the health and well-being of long-term care residents?

I believe that if your DON or nursing staff are members, it will have a direct impact. We are all about the standards of practice, so all of our educational offerings are evidence based – they are based on the latest and best research out there. As members go through any of the certifications, they are increasing their knowledge base dramatically and can put that knowledge to work in patient care areas.

I look back to when I first started working as a nurse and some of the things we did then – we don't do them anymore because research told us that wasn't the right approach. Now, I'm always getting articles on best practices, standards of care, and new developments based on evidence-based research. This helps us to develop policies and procedures, training, etc., for our staff and our residents.

Why is the partnership between NADONA and PharMerica important?

PharMerica is one of our biggest partners and we've worked together to provide a variety of educational offerings. Teaming up allows us to access a lot of different people, including some great presenters for webinars on a wide range of topics. While we may have started with a focus on pharmacy, we've branched out and now address other areas to provide skilled nursing facilities even greater value. These are topics nurses really need and want to know about. And it shows: for the last webinar event we did with PharMerica, there were over 1,000 residents.

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To learn more about how PharMerica is supporting DONs, other nurse leaders, and nursing staff in skilled nursing, visit PharMerica.com/who-we-are/nurse-advancement.

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