

2012 Healthcare Calendar of Recognition Days & Special Events

January

All month [Blood Donor Month](#)

Provides an opportunity for people to donate blood or pledge to give blood at a time of year when it is typically in short supply.

Jan 15-21 [Healthy Weight Week](#)

Celebrates healthy lifestyle habits that last a lifetime and helps prevent weight problems.

Jan 22-28 [National Nurse Anesthetists Week](#)

Established by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists. An opportunity for Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to celebrate their history and accomplishments while educating the public on the important contributions they make to America's healthcare system.

Jan 23-27 [National Medical Group Practice Week](#)

Promotes awareness and understanding of medical group practices as the premier form of healthcare delivery.

Jan 25 [National IV Nurse Day](#)

Honors the commitment shown and the outstanding patient care practiced by infusion nurse professionals.

February

All month [American Heart Month](#)

During American Heart Month, the American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement and its latest Hispanic initiative, Go Red Por Tu Corazon, work to save women's lives and beat heart disease.

All month [Wise Health Consumer Month](#)

Focuses on helping consumers receive the right care at the right time in the right place. Teaches consumers to become more active in their own healthcare.

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February Cont'd

Feb 1-7 [National Patient Recognition Week](#)

A time for all healthcare professionals, providers and personnel to come together, reflect and renew their stewardship to their patients' well-being and satisfaction.

Feb 3 [National Patient Recognition Day](#)

National Patient Recognition Week is the first seven days in February, with February 3rd being National Patient Recognition Day. (See National Patient Recognition Week)

Feb 3 [Wear Red Day](#)

The American Heart Association's Go Red for Women movement works to save women's lives and beat heart disease, the number-one killer of women. Show support on February 3rd by wearing red.

Feb 5-11 [National Burn Awareness Week](#)

Established to increase awareness of burn treatment, research and prevention.

Feb 6-12 [PeriAnesthesia Nurses Awareness Week](#)

The American Society of PeriAnesthesia Nurses acknowledges the tremendous work that the nation's more than 55,000 perianesthesia nurses do throughout the year. Nurses in hospitals, clinics and ambulatory surgery centers are encouraged to wear and display official PeriAnesthesia Nurses Awareness Week items to increase the public's awareness.

Feb 12-18 [Cardiovascular Professionals Week](#)

Celebrates the contribution cardiovascular professionals make to healthcare.

Feb 12-18 [National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week](#)

Focuses attention on cardiac rehabilitation's contribution to improving the health and physical performance of people at risk for heart disease, as well as those who have been diagnosed with heart dysfunction.

March

All month [National Athletic Training Month](#)

Designed to raise awareness of athletic trainers (not personal trainers) and recognize their work as healthcare professionals who specialize in the prevention, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitation of injuries or illnesses. These individuals work in hospitals, physicians' offices, schools and clinics.

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March Cont'd

All month [Child Life Month](#)

Designed to honor child life specialists as they work to ensure quality, family-centered and developmentally appropriate care for children.

All month [National Eye Donor Month](#)

Promoted by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) to raise awareness of the need to donate eyes.

All month [National Kidney Month](#)

During Kidney Month, the National Kidney Foundation helps raise awareness and appreciation for all the vital functions the kidneys perform.

All month [National Nutrition Month](#)

A nutrition education and information campaign held annually in March by the American Dietetic Association. Attention is focused on the importance of making informed food choices and developing sound eating and physical activity habits.

All month [National Professional Social Work Month](#)

Honors and celebrates the social work profession.

All month [Workplace Eye Wellness Month](#)

Find out how to make your work environment easier on your eyes and prevent workplace accidents.

Mar 4-10 [National Dental Assistants Recognition Week](#)

Honors and recognizes dental assistants. Supports the team concept.

Mar 4-10 [Patient Safety Awareness Week](#)

A national education and awareness-building campaign for improving patient safety at the local level where hospitals are encouraged to plan events to promote patient safety within their own organizations.

Mar 11-17 [National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week](#)

Focuses national attention on pulmonary rehabilitation's contribution to enhancing the lives of people with chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD). Special events are held throughout the country at hospitals, exercise facilities and outpatient rehab centers.

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March Cont'd

Mar 14 [Registered Dietitian Day](#)

Commemorates the dedication of registered dietitians as advocates for advancing the nutritional status of Americans and people around the world.

Mar 17-24 [National Inhalants & Poison Prevention Week](#)

A public health education and awareness campaign to reduce and prevent inhalant use and abuse.

Mar 30 [National Doctors' Day](#)

Encourages members to promote the observance through community projects and pay tribute to physicians. Reminds the public of doctors' dedication to the health and welfare of patients and increases awareness of the positive role of physicians in the community.

April

All month [Counseling Awareness Month](#)

Recognizes the differences professional counselors make in communities throughout the world.

All month [March for Babies](#)

The nation's biggest and oldest charity walking event. Funds help women have full-term pregnancies and healthy babies, thus reducing health costs to employers.

All month [National Foot Health Awareness Month](#)

Encourages everyone to be mindful that foot health has an overall impact on total body health, and that a podiatrist is key to ensuring optimal foot health.

All month [National Humor Month](#)

Focuses on the therapeutic value and vital need for humor in healthcare.

All month [National Minority Health Month](#)

National Minority Health Month is held annually to raise awareness of minority health disparities and take initiatives to address them.

All month [National Occupational Therapy Month](#)

Each April, occupational therapists, occupational therapy assistants and students in practice, education, research and science host a month-long celebration showcasing the importance of occupational therapy.

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April Cont'd

Apr 1-Aug 31 [Relay for Life](#)

The world's largest non-profit fundraising event. Involves teams of people gathering to celebrate those who have battled cancer, remember loved ones lost and fight back against the disease by raising money to support the American Cancer Society.

Apr 1-7 [National Healthcare Access Personnel Week](#)

A week-long celebration of the people in the patient access profession.

Apr 2-8 [National Public Health Week](#)

Recognizes the contributions of public health professionals. Highlights issues important to public health.

Apr 7 [World Health Day](#)

World Health Day was established to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO).

Apr 9-13 [Cancer Registrars Week](#)

Promotes the amazing work of cancer registry professionals.

Apr 9-15 [Patient Advocacy Week](#)

Honors the contribution of patient advocates who work tirelessly to ensure that patients receive the highest quality healthcare.

Apr 12 [Radiology Nurses Day](#)

Advances the specialty practice of radiologic and imaging nurses who advance the standard of care in the imaging environment.

Apr 15-21 [National Healthcare Volunteer Week](#)

Recognizes the support that volunteers and auxiliaries provide to hospital staff, their patients, family members and the community at the local, state and national levels.

Apr 15-21 [Neurodiagnostic Week](#)

Honors and celebrates the contributions of Neurodiagnostic professionals. Demonstrates pride in the profession and in the individual accomplishments of technologists throughout the world.

Apr 22-28 [National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week](#)

The annual salute to those working in laboratories.

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April Cont'd

Apr 22-28 [Healthcare Administrative Professionals Week](#)

Advances the professional development, leadership, value and excellence of healthcare administrative professionals who maintain the seamless running of healthcare organizations.

May

All month [Better Hearing & Speech Month](#)

Audiologists, speech-language pathologists and other professionals join efforts to educate the public regarding communication challenges.

All month [Better Sleep Month](#)

Raises awareness of the importance of sleep and its direct effect on emotional well-being, job productivity, physical performance, healthy relationships and intellectual capability.

All month [Mental Health Month](#)

The goal of Mental Health Month is to educate the public about mental health conditions and the importance of mental health to overall health and wellness.

All month [National Critical Care Awareness & Recognition Month](#)

The American Association of Critical-Care Nurses, Society of Critical Care Medicine, American College of Chest Physicians and others recognize the devoted professionals whose compassion and dedication to the care of the critically ill and injured has made a difference.

All month [National Physical Fitness & Sports Month](#)

Encourages individuals and organizations to celebrate physical activity, fitness and sports participation.

All month [Older Americans Month](#)

A time to acknowledge the many contributions of older persons. Celebrated through ceremonies, events, fairs and other activities.

All month [Oncology Nursing Month](#)

Designed to recognize oncology nurses, to educate the public about oncology nursing, to provide an opportunity for special educational events and to celebrate the accomplishments of oncology nurses.

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May Cont'd

All month [National Employee Health & Fitness Month](#)

Dedicated to encouraging employers from all sectors (public, private and nonprofit) to promote and encourage employees and their families to be physically active on a regular basis.

May 2 [Asthma Awareness Day on Capitol Hill](#)

Brings the issues and concerns of patients and families before members of Congress and their staff. The day includes a Congressional briefing and an Allergy and Asthma Health Fair with free respiratory screenings.

May 6 [National Nurses Day](#)

(See National Nurses Week)

May 6-12 [North American Occupational Safety & Health Week](#)

Works to increase public awareness of the importance of being safe at work and the important role that occupational safety and health professionals play in preventing workplace injuries and illnesses.

May 6-12 [National Nurses Week](#)

Seeks to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and help educate the public about the vital roles registered nurses play in meeting the healthcare needs of the public.

May 6-12 [National Hospital Week](#)

The nation's largest healthcare event. A celebration of the history, technology and dedicated professionals that make our facilities beacons of confidence and care.

May 9 [National School Nurse Day](#)

Recognizes school nurses to develop a better understanding of the nurse in the educational setting.

May 12 [Florence Nightingale's Birthday](#)

Recognizes Florence Nightingale's significant contribution toward the development of modern professional nursing. To honor her, National Nurses Week and National Hospital Week are celebrated during the week that includes her birthday.

May 13-19 [National Nursing Home Week](#)

Designed to familiarize the public with long-term care facilities and their services.

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May Cont'd

May 13-19 [Neuroscience Nursing Week](#)

A week to honor the time, value and commitment that neuroscience nurses dedicate to patients and their families.

May 14-18 [National Medical Transcriptionist Week](#)

Recognizes the critical role that healthcare documentation specialists play in the accurate capture and documentation of patient encounter information.

May 20-26 [National Emergency Medical Services Week](#)

Educates the public about the EMS system and its appropriate use. Recognizes every member of the EMS team, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, firefighters and police.

May 30 [National Senior Health & Fitness Day](#)

Promotes the importance of physical activity for seniors. More than 1,000 local organizations and 100,000+ older adults will participate in local events across the country.

June

All month [Men's Health Month](#)

Celebrated across the country with screenings, health fairs, media appearances and other health education and outreach activities.

All month [Migraine Awareness Month](#)

Educates people about headache causes, impact and help.

Jun 3-9 [Sun Safety Week](#)

Sun Safety week promotes sun safety and skin cancer prevention in the U.S.

Jun 5 [National Healthcare Recruiters Recognition Day](#)

Always falls on the first Tuesday in June. A great way to promote the profession and the contribution healthcare recruiters make to their organizations each and every day.

Jun 10-16 [National Vascular Nursing Week](#)

Recognizes professionals practicing vascular nursing at the bedside in acute care settings, operating rooms and clinics, as well as functioning as staff nurses, advanced practice nurses, educators and researchers.

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June Cont'd

Jun 11-17 [National Men's Health Week](#)

Designed to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

Jun 14-21 [National Nursing Assistants Week](#)

Recognizes the many and unique contributions of nursing assistants and other direct-care workers who provide daily care in nursing homes, home care and other long-term care settings.

Jun 18-22 [National Healthcare Risk Management Week](#)

Recognizes and raises the visibility of the critical role that risk managers play in healthcare. The event instills occupational pride and raises awareness of the issues of risk management.

July

Jul 2-9 [Nurses in Staff Development Week](#)

Advances the specialty practice of nursing staff development for the enhancement of high-quality healthcare outcomes.

Jul 8-14 [National Therapeutic Recreation Week](#)

Celebrated the second week of July every year. Purpose is to enhance public awareness of therapeutic recreation programs and services while expanding recreation and leisure opportunities for individuals with disabilities.

Jul 22-28 [National Hospitality House Week](#)

Recognizes the role local hospitality houses play in communities and pays tribute to those families and their loved ones who have opened their homes to others.

August

All month [Children's Eye & Safety Month](#)

Promotes children's eye health and safety.

All month [Neurosurgery Outreach Month](#)

Dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of neurosurgeons who diagnose and treat disorders of the entire nervous system.

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August Cont'd

Aug 12-18 [National Health Center Week](#)

Dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless and public housing health centers in providing care to the underserved people in the U.S.

Aug 23 [Health Unit Coordinator Day](#)

Promotes health unit coordinating as a profession through education and certification, complying with the NAHUC standards of practice, standards of education and code of ethics.

September

All month [Healthy Aging Month](#)

Focuses national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. Encourages local Healthy Aging events that promote taking personal responsibility for one's health.

All month [STEPtember](#)

America on the Move (AOM) is hosting STEPtember 2012, a national month-long celebration highlighting how easy it is to be active and eat healthier.

Sep 9-15 [National Environmental Services & Housekeeping Week](#)

Recognizes environmental services teams as essential personnel in the execution of infection control cleaning protocols, patient safety goals and customer satisfaction.

Sep 9-15 [National Assisted Living Week](#)

Celebrates the crucial role assisted living residences play in helping our nation's elders and individuals with disabilities enjoy a meaningful quality of life.

Sep 9-15 [National Nephrology Nurses Week](#)

To honor dedicated nephrology nurses who care for patients with kidney disease.

Sep 15 [National Neonatal Nurses Day](#)

Provides an opportunity to celebrate the accomplishments of individual neonatal nurses and the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN) community.

Sep 16-22 [National Rehabilitation Awareness Week](#)

Applauds the efforts of rehab professionals and focuses the nation's attention on the powers and possibilities of rehabilitation.

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September Cont'd

Sep 16-22 [National Surgical Technologist Week](#)

Educates the public and recognizes surgical technologists and their role in the operating room.

Sep 26 [Women's Health & Fitness Day](#)

The nation's largest women's health promotion event, always held the last Wednesday in September. Focuses attention on the importance of regular physical activity and health awareness for women of all ages.

Sep 29 [Family Health & Fitness Day USA](#)

The largest family health event of its kind, always held the last Saturday in September. Promotes family health and fitness.

October

All month [American Pharmacist Month](#)

Recognizes the significant contributions to healthcare and the commitment to patient care by pharmacists in all practice settings around the country.

All month [Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month](#)

Designed to increase the public's knowledge of sonography. Occurs every October.

All month [National Breast Cancer Awareness Month](#)

Increases awareness of breast cancer issues, including early detection and encouraging women to monitor their own breast health.

All month [National Dental Hygiene Month](#)

Focuses on increasing public awareness of the importance of educating the entire family on situations impacting their oral health.

All month [National Disability Employment Awareness Month](#)

Seeks to remind employers that people with disabilities can be dedicated, reliable employees.

All month [National Medical Librarians Month](#)

Highlights and raises awareness of the important role of the health sciences information professional in finding quality health information.

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October Cont'd

All month [National Physical Therapy Month](#)

Recognizes and celebrates physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students.

Oct 1-7 [National Midwifery Week](#)

Recognizes the contributions certified midwives (CMs) and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) make to the health and well-being of women and their families.

Oct 1-7 [National Healthcare Food Service Workers Week](#)

Recognizes healthcare foodservice workers for their commitment and dedication to the communities they serve.

Oct 6-12 [National Physician Assistants Week](#)

Intended to support, celebrate, highlight and recognize the significant impact physician assistants (PA) have made and continue to make in healthcare. The week is also used to expand awareness of the PA profession nationwide and to salute the outstanding growth of the PA workforce.

Oct 7-13 [National Healthcare Resource & Materials Management Week](#)

Recognizes and honors resource and materials management departments and professionals for their exceptional contributions to the success of healthcare organizations.

Oct 7-13 [Nuclear Medicine Week](#)

Promotes and recognizes nuclear medicine professionals and their practice.

Oct 7-13 [Pediatric Nursing Week](#)

Advances the specialty practice of pediatric nursing, dedicated to promoting the optimal health of children and excellence in the nursing care of children and their families.

Oct 7-13 [Emergency Nurses Week](#)

A celebration of the hardworking nursing professionals who care for those people most in need.

Oct 7-13 [International Healthcare Central Service/Sterile Processing Week](#)

Recognizes the important role that central service and sterile processing teams play in supply-distribution and processing of surgical instrumentation, as well as patient safety.

Oct 8-12 [National Dialysis Technician Recognition Week](#)

Recognizes the significant contribution dialysis technicians make to the healthcare team.

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October Cont'd

Oct 14-20 [Healthcare Security & Safety Week and Officers Week & Day](#)

Salutes men and women in security departments who provide for the safety and security of everyone in the healthcare facility.

Oct 14-20 [National Case Management Week](#)

An opportunity to recognize the dedication, compassion and patient-care outcomes achieved by hospital case managers.

Oct 14-20 [International Infection Prevention Week](#)

Shines a spotlight on educating healthcare workers, healthcare administrators, legislators and consumers about the importance of reducing the risk of infections. Held the third week in October.

Oct 15-19 [National Medical Assistants Week](#)

Recognizes medical assistants' vital role and contributions to the patient-healthcare team while raising awareness of the profession.

Oct 21-27 [National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week](#)

Acknowledges the invaluable contributions that pharmacists and technicians make to patient care in our nation's healthcare institutions.

Oct 21-27 [National Healthcare Quality Week](#)

Celebrates the work of quality professionals in healthcare and highlights their influence on achieving improved patient-care outcomes.

Oct 21-27 [National Massage Therapy Awareness Week](#)

To recognize and increase awareness of the benefits and value of massage therapy in health and wellness.

Oct 21-27 [National Healthcare Facilities & Engineering Week](#)

Recognizes the important role that facility managers and engineers play in ensuring a safe and functional environment for all patients, visitors and staff.

Oct 21-27 [National Respiratory Care Week](#)

Respiratory care therapists celebrate their fast-growing profession while raising awareness of lung health.

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October Cont'd

Oct 21-27 [Pastoral Care Week](#)

Gives opportunities for organizations and institutions of all kinds and types to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry caregivers provide.

Oct 23-31 [National Red Ribbon Week](#)

The oldest and largest drug prevention program in the nation, reaching millions of young people annually. Displaying a red ribbon is a symbol of intolerance of drug use.

November

All month [National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month](#)

Recognizes all those living with Alzheimer's disease and honors the caregivers, including families and friends, who support them.

All month [National Family Caregivers Month](#)

Designated as a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers.

All month [National Hospice & Palliative Care Month](#)

A time to reach out and raise awareness about high-quality end-of-life care.

Nov 1-7 [National Medical-Surgical Nurses Week](#)

Recognizes medical-surgical nurses who care for adult patients in a broad range of settings.

Nov 1-7 [Urology Nurses & Associates Week](#)

Employers, colleagues and patients are encouraged to celebrate these caregivers to raise visibility of the critical role that urologic healthcare providers play in hospitals, doctors' offices, nursing homes and other settings.

Nov 4-10 [National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week](#)

Gives opportunities for hospitals, MCOs, doctors' offices, university health systems and government agencies to promote awareness of medical services professionals.

Nov 4-10 [National Allied Health Professions Week](#)

Honors the three million healthcare providers working in more than 80 allied health professions. Promotes the celebration of allied health careers by providers, educators and accrediting organizations.

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November Cont'd

Nov 4-10 [National Patient Transport Week](#)

Recognizes the dedication of hospital-based patient transporters and porters.

Nov 4-10 [Aspiring Nurse Leader Week](#)

The American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE) encourages all nurse leaders to recommit themselves to the important work of developing new nurse leaders.

Nov 4-10 [National Radiologic Technology Week](#)

Celebrated annually to recognize the vital work of radiologic technologists across the nation.

Nov 5-11 [Perioperative Nurse Week](#)

Special events and other forms of publicity are used to help educate the public about the diverse roles performed by perioperative nurses.

Nov 11-17 [National Home Care Aide Week](#)

Honors heroes who make a remarkable difference in the lives of patients and the families they serve.

Nov 15 [Great American Smoke Out](#)

Challenges people to stop using tobacco and helps make them aware of the tools they can use to quit for good. Occurs each year on the third Thursday of November, sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

December

Dec 1 [World AIDS Day](#)

Focuses global attention on the continuing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic and encourages each of us to take action to expand our collective response to the epidemic.

*Sources: AHA's 2012 Health Observances and Recognition Days Calendar and other sources.
Dates are subject to change.*

Your Next Steps

Contact your local [NAS office](#) to find out about great promotional or display products.

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