2015 Healthcare Calendar of Recognition Days

January 2015

Month-long Observances

National Blood Donor Month
The month of January 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.

Week-long Observances

January 19-23 Healthy Weight Week
Healthy Weight Week is a time to celebrate healthy diet-free living habits that last a lifetime and prevent eating and weight problems.

January 25-31 National Nurse Anesthetists Week
Established by the American Association of Nurse Anesthetists, this week is 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.

January 26-30 National Medical Group Practice Week
National Medical Group Practice Week promotes awareness and understanding of medical group practices as the premier form of healthcare delivery.

Recognition Days

January 25 National IV Nurse Day
Every year on January 25, thousands of infusion professionals around the country celebrate IV Nurse Day. First celebrated in 1981, it is a day that means a great deal to the many who have dedicated their lives to providing the best infusion care possible.

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Month-long Observances

**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 Corazón, work to save women’s lives and beat heart disease.

**Wise Health Care Consumer Month**
The American Institute for Preventive Medicine established Wise Health Care Consumer Month to help employers empower their employees to understand their options, communicate with their care providers and make educated decisions about their own health.

Week-long Observances

**February 1-7 National Burn Awareness Week**
Established by the American Burn Association, Burn Awareness Week is observed the first full week in February. It is designed to provide an opportunity for burn, fire and life safety educators to unite in sharing a common burn awareness and prevention message in our communities.

**February 2-8 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.

**February 8-14 Cardiovascular Professionals Week**
This week celebrates the contribution cardiovascular professionals make to healthcare. The event is sponsored by the Alliance of Cardiovascular Professionals.

**February 8-14 National Cardiac Rehabilitation Week**
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.

Recognition Days

**February 6 National Wear Red Day/Go Red for Women**
The American Heart Association’s Wear Red Day movement works to save women’s lives and beat heart disease, the number-one killer of women. Show support by wearing red.

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March 2015

Month-long Observances

Child Life Month
Child Life Month is designed to honor child life specialists as they work to ensure quality, family-centered and developmentally appropriate care for children.

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.

National Eye Donor Month
National Eye Donor Month is promoted by the Eye Bank Association of America (EBAA) to raise awareness of the need to donate eyes.

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

National Nutrition Month
National Nutrition Month is a nutrition education and information campaign held annually in March by the American Dietetic Association. The 2015 theme, “Bite into a Healthy Lifestyle,” encourages the adoption of smart eating and physical activity plans in order to achieve and maintain a healthy weight, reduce the risk of chronic disease and promote overall health.

National Professional Social Work Month
Professional Social Work Month was established by the National Association of Social Workers to honor and celebrate the social work profession. This event recognizes social workers who strive to improve social conditions and quality of life opportunities for everyone.

Workplace Eye Wellness Month
Find out how to make your work environment easier on your eyes and prevent workplace accidents. The event is sponsored by Prevent Blindness America.

Week-long Observances

March 1-7 National Dental Assistants Recognition Week
National Dental Assistants Recognition Week is a tribute to the commitment and dedication that dental assistants display throughout the year.

March 2-8 National Sleep Awareness Week
National Sleep Awareness Week is an annual public education and awareness campaign to promote the importance of sleep. The week begins with the announcement of the National Sleep Foundation’s Sleep in America poll results and ends with the clock change to Daylight Saving Time, when Americans move clocks forward one hour.

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March 2015

March 8-14 National Patient Safety Awareness Week
Sponsored by the National Patient Safety Foundation, National Patient Safety Awareness Week is an annual education and awareness-building campaign for healthcare safety. The 2015 theme is “United in Safety.”

March 8-14 National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week
National Pulmonary Rehabilitation Week is a chance to educate the community about the role of pulmonary rehabilitation in enhancing the quality of life of individuals with lung disease. It’s also an opportunity to thank professionals for their contributions and share with them valuable educational resources to further their professional development.

March 15-21 Health Care Human Resources Week
Health Care Human Resources Week recognizes HR professionals in all healthcare settings for the daily issues they face relating to the workforce, compensation, benefits, employee relations, healthcare reform and wellness.

March 22-28 Health Information Professionals Week
The American Health Information Management Association (AHIMA) will honor and celebrate health information professionals during the 26th annual Health Information Professionals (HIP) Week. Health information professionals play a key role in the effective management of health and data and medical records needed to deliver quality healthcare to the public.

Recognition Days

March 11 Registered Dietitian Day
Registered Dietitian Day commemorates the dedication of registered dietitians as invaluable providers of food and nutrition services. It recognizes dietitians for their commitment to helping people enjoy healthy lives.

March 30 National Doctors’ Day
National Doctors’ Day is held every year on March 30. The day encourages members to promote the observance through community projects and pay tribute to physicians. It 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.

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April 2015

Month-long Observances

Counseling Awareness Month
The American Counseling Association designates April each year as a time to recognize the differences professional counselors make in communities throughout the world.

March for Babies
March for Babies is 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.

National Autism Awareness Month
The Autism Society has been celebrating National Autism Awareness Month since the 1970s. The month of April highlights the growing need for concern and awareness about autism.

National Foot Health Awareness Month
The American Podiatric Medical Association stresses that foot health has an overall impact on total body health, and that podiatrists are key to ensuring optimal foot health.

National Humor Month
National Humor Month focuses on the therapeutic value and vital need for humor in healthcare.

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

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. The event is promoted by the American Occupational Therapy Association.

Week-long Observances

April 5-11 National Healthcare Access Personnel Week
This is a week-long celebration of the people in the patient access profession. It is sponsored by the National Association of Healthcare Access Management.

April 6-10 National Cancer Registrars Week
The purpose of National Cancer Registrars Week, established by the National Cancer Registrars Association, is to emphasize the foundation cancer registrars provide for cancer research, prevention and treatment. The 2015 theme is Cancer Registrars: The Lighthouse in a Storm of Change.

April 6-12 National Public Health Week
The American Public Health Association serves as the organizer of National Public Health Week, which recognizes the contributions of public health professionals and highlights issues important to public health.

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April 2015

April 12-18 **National Healthcare Volunteer Week**
Established by President Richard Nixon in 1974, this day recognizes the support that volunteers and auxilians provide to hospital staff, their patients, family members and the community at the local, state and national levels.

April 19-25 **Administrative Professionals Week**
This week is dedicated to advancing the professional development, leadership, value and excellence of administrative professionals who maintain the seamless running of their organizations. It is one of the largest workplace observances besides birthdays and major holidays.

April 19-25 **Neurodiagnostic Week**
Sponsored by The Neurodiagnostic Society, Neurodiagnostic Week honors and celebrates the contributions of neurodiagnostic professionals. This week-long event is an opportunity to demonstrate pride in the profession and in the individual accomplishments of neurodiagnostic technologists.

April 20-24 **National Medical Laboratory Professionals Week**
Medical Laboratory Professionals Week provides the profession with a unique opportunity to increase public understanding of and appreciation for clinical laboratory professionals and pathologists.

April 27- May 1 **Patient Experience Week**
This annual event is intended to celebrate healthcare staff impacting patient experience every day. Inspired by members of the Beryl Institute community, PX Week is a time for organizations to celebrate accomplishments, reenergize efforts and honor the people who impact patient experience, including nurses and physicians, support staff and executive professionals, patients, families and communities served.

**Recognition Days**

April 7 **World Health Day**
World Health Day was established to commemorate the establishment of the World Health Organization (WHO). The 2015 topic is “Food Safety.” It is an opportunity to alert people working in different government sectors, farmers, manufacturers, retailers and health practitioners about the importance of food safety.

April 12 **Radiologic & Imaging Nurses Day**
Radiologic & Imaging Nurses Day promotes the specialty practice of radiologic and imaging nurses who advance the standard of care in the imaging environment.

April 22 **Administrative Professionals Day**
This day is part of Administrative Professionals Week and is set aside to recognize the more than 22 million administrative and office support professionals working in the United States.

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May 2015

Month-long Observances

**Better Hearing & Speech Month**
Audiologists, speech-language pathologists and other professionals join efforts to educate the public regarding communication challenges.

**Better Sleep Month**
The goal of Better Sleep Month is to raise awareness of the importance of sleep and its direct effect on emotional well-being, job productivity, physical performance, healthy relationships and intellectual capability.

**Mental Health Month**
Sponsored by Mental Health America, the goal of Mental Health Month is to educate the public about mental health conditions and the importance of mental health to overall wellness. Another goal is to provide tips and tools to protect mental health and promote whole health.

**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 have made a difference. Many ICUs hold educational symposia, staff recognition ceremonies or special events to celebrate the day.

**National Employee Health & Fitness Month**
May is dedicated to encouraging employers to promote and encourage employees and their families to be physically active on a regular basis. Employers and employees all over the country implement and participate in healthy activities conveniently at the workplace and within their communities.

**Older Americans Month**
Since 1963, May has been a month to appreciate and celebrate the vitality and aspirations of older adults and their contributions to our communities.

**Oncology Nursing Month**
Oncology Nursing Month, sponsored by the Oncology Nursing Society, is 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.

Week-long Observances

May 3-9 **North American Occupational Safety & Health Week**
North American Occupational Safety & Health Week aims to focus employers, employees, partners and the public on the importance of preventing injury and illness in the workplace, at home and in the community.

May 6-12 **National Nurses Week**
This campaign seeks to raise public awareness of the value of nursing and help educate the public about the roles registered nurses play in meeting the healthcare needs of all communities.

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May 2015

May 10-16 National Nursing Home Week
National Nursing Home Week is sponsored by the American Health Care Organization. The day is set aside to recognize residents and patients in long-term and post-acute care settings, and the dedicated staff who care for them.

May 10-17 National Hospital Week
National Hospital Week, the nation’s largest healthcare event, is a time to recognize hospital staff and promote hospitals’ missions of health and wellness. This year’s event is sponsored by the American Hospital Association.

May 17-23 National Emergency Medical Services Week
The American College of Emergency Physician supports EMS Week, which educates the public about the EMS system and its appropriate use. This year’s theme is “EMS Strong.” It recognizes every member of the EMS team, including paramedics, emergency medical technicians, first responders, firefighters and police.

May 17-23 National Medical Transcriptionist Week
National Medical Transcription Week recognizes the critical role that healthcare documentation specialists play in the accurate capture and documentation of patient encounter information. Sponsored by the Association for Healthcare Documentation Integrity.

May 17-23 Neuroscience Nurses Week
Neuroscience Nurses Week celebrates the work of neuroscience nurses, as well as highlights their influence on patient care to hospital administrators, allied health professionals and the community. The week is designated by the American Association of Neuroscience Nurses.

Recognition Days

May 6 National Nurses Day
(See National Nurses Week, May 6-12)

May 6 National School Nurse Day
The National Association of School Nurses has set aside this day to recognize school nurses in order to develop a better understanding of the nurse in the educational setting.

May 12 Florence Nightingale’s Birthday
May 12th 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 27 National Senior Health & Fitness Day
National Senior Health & Fitness Day, always held on the last Wednesday in May, is the largest promotion event for older adults. It helps promote 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.

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Month-long Observances

**Men’s Health Month**
Men’s Health Month is celebrated across the country with screenings, health fairs, media appearances and other health education and outreach activities. Its purpose is to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

**National Migraine Awareness Month**
Migraine Awareness Month seeks to educate people about headache causes, impact and help.

Week-long Observances

**June 1-7 Sun Safety Week**
Sun Safety Week promotes sun safety and skin cancer prevention in the U.S.

**June 8-14 National Vascular Nursing Week**
This event 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.

**June 11-18 National Nursing Assistants Week**
National Nursing Assistants Week recognizes the 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.

**June 15-19 National Healthcare Risk Management Week**
The American Society for Healthcare Risk Management dedicates this week to recognizing and raising 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.

**June 15-21 National Men’s Health Week**
The week is designed to heighten the awareness of preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men and boys.

Recognition Days

**June 2 National Healthcare Recruiters Recognition Day**
This event always falls on the first Tuesday in June. It’s an opportunity to promote the profession and the contribution healthcare recruiters make to their organizations each and every day.

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July 2015

Month-long Observances

**Fireworks Safety Month**
Organized by Prevent Blindness America, Fireworks Safety Month intends to alert parents and children to the dangers of playing with fireworks. Fireworks were involved in an estimated 11,400 injuries treated in U.S. hospital emergency departments during the calendar year 2013.

**National Minority Mental Health Awareness Month**
The National Alliance on Mental Illness encourages organizations and individuals to help raise awareness of mental illness, treatment and research in diverse communities.

**UV Safety Month**
July is UV Safety Month. Americans are encouraged to protect their eyes and their children’s eyes by wearing sunglasses and wide-brimmed hats.

Week-long Observances

**July 12-18 Everybody Deserves a Massage Week**
Every year, massage therapists and bodyworkers nationwide lend their hearts and hands to raise awareness of the benefits of massage, bodywork and somatic therapies.
August 2015

Month-long Observances

Children’s Eye & Safety Month
During the month of August, Prevent Blindness America helps promote children’s eye health and safety, and educates the public on signs of possible eye problems.

Neurosurgery Awareness Month
The month of August is dedicated to recognizing the service and contributions of neurosurgeons who diagnose and treat disorders of the entire nervous system.

Week-long Observances

August 9-15 National Health Center Week
National Health Center Week is designed to recognize the service and contributions of community, migrant, homeless and public housing health centers in providing care to the underserved people in the U.S.

Recognition Days

August 23 Health Unit Coordinator Day
Every August, the National Association of Health Unit Coordinators (NAHUC) promotes the profession of health unit coordinating through education and certification, complying with the NAHUC standards of practice, standards of education and code of ethics.

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Month-long Observances

Healthy Aging Month
Healthy Aging Month is an annual observance month designed to focus national attention on the positive aspects of growing older. The main objective is to encourage local-level Healthy Aging events that promote taking personal responsibility for one's health.

Week-long Observances

September 13-19 National Assisted Living Week
National Assisted Living Week provides a unique opportunity for residents, families, staff, volunteers and the surrounding community to come together to give residents a variety of exciting events and activities that show them how much you care about and love them.

September 13-19 National Nephrology Nurses Week
This week was established to honor the dedicated nephrology nurses who care for patients with kidney disease. ANNA has designated the second full week in September each year as Nephrology Nurses Week.

September 14-18 National Environmental Services & Housekeeping Week
This event recognizes environmental services teams as essential personnel in the execution of infection control cleaning protocols, patient safety goals and customer satisfaction.

September 20-26 National Rehabilitation Awareness Week
Always the third full week in September, this event applauds the efforts of rehab professionals and focuses the nation’s attention on the powers and possibilities of rehabilitation.

September 20-26 National Surgical Technologist Week
Each year, National Surgical Technologist Week is an opportunity to promote the profession and educate the community about the vital role that surgical technologists play in the OR.

September 20-26 Nurses in Professional Development Week
This week advances the specialty practice of nursing staff development for the enhancement of high-quality healthcare outcomes.

September 27-October 3 National Gerontological Nursing Week
The National Gerontological Nursing Association celebrates this week to raise awareness of the growing need for gerontological nurses, and the need for increased training and educational opportunities that will equip nurses to meet the needs of older adults.

Recognition Days

September 15 National Neonatal Nurses Day
National Neonatal Nurses Day is celebrated every September 15. The day was established in 2000 by the National Association of Neonatal Nurses (NANN). On this day, members of the neonatal community honor nurse colleagues and show their pride in being a neonatal nurse.
September 2015

September 26 **Family Health & Fitness Day USA**
Family Health & Fitness Day USA is the largest family health event of its kind and is always held on the last Saturday in September. The event's purpose is to promote family involvement in physical activity, one of the goals of the U.S. Surgeon General's Report on Physical Activity and Health.

September 30 **Women’s Health & Fitness Day**
Women’s Health & Fitness Day is the nation’s largest annual health promotion event for women of all ages. The event is always held on the last Wednesday in September.
Month-long Observances

American Pharmacists Month
American Pharmacists Month recognizes the significant contributions to healthcare and the commitment to patient care by pharmacists in all practice settings around the country.

Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month
Medical Ultrasound Awareness Month is designed to increase public awareness of medical ultrasound and promote its value in healthcare. It takes place every October.

National Breast Cancer Awareness Month
This event is a collaboration of national public service organizations, professional medical associations and government agencies working together to promote breast cancer awareness, share information on the disease and provide greater access to services.

National Dental Hygiene Month
National Dental Hygiene Month focuses on increasing public awareness of the importance of educating the entire family on situations impacting their oral health.

National Disability Employment Awareness Month
National Disability Employment Awareness Month is a national campaign that raises awareness about disability employment issues and celebrates the many and varied contributions of America’s workers with disabilities. It is always held in October.

National Medical Librarians Month
National Medical Librarians Month highlights and raises awareness of the important role of the health sciences information professional in finding quality health information.

National Physical Therapy Month
National Physical Therapy Month (NPTM) is celebrated each October. It recognizes and celebrates physical therapists, physical therapist assistants and physical therapy students.

Week-long Observances

October 4-10 National Healthcare Supply Chain Week
The first week of October is dedicated to celebrating resource and materials management professionals for their outstanding contributions to healthcare and the overall success of the supply chain field.

October 4-10 National Midwifery Week
National Midwifery Week is held Sunday to Saturday during the first full week of October. It recognizes the contributions certified midwives (CMs) and certified nurse midwives (CNMs) make to the health and well-being of women and their families.

October 4-10 Nuclear Medicine & Molecular Imaging Week
The first full week in October is dedicated to recognizing the nuclear medicine and molecular imaging community for their hard work.

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October 2015

October 5-9 Pediatric Nurses Week
The Society of Pediatric Nurses celebrates the specialty practice of pediatric nursing and the professionals dedicated to promoting the optimal health of children and excellence in the nursing care of children and their families. The week calls attention to the critical work pediatric nurses provide to improve healthcare delivery.

October 5-11 National Healthcare Food Service Workers Week
This week is set aside to honor healthcare food and nutrition professionals in self-operated facilities.

October 6-12 National Physician Assistants Week
Intended to support, celebrate, highlight and recognize the significant impact PAs have made and continue to make in healthcare. Held every year from October 6 to 12, the week is also used to expand awareness of the PA profession nationwide and to salute the outstanding growth of the PA workforce.

October 11-17 Emergency Nurses Week
Emergency Nurses Week is dedicated to recognizing emergency room nurses. The week, which is sponsored by the Emergency Nurses Association, celebrates the hardworking nursing professionals who care for those people most in need.

October 11-17 Healthcare Security & Safety Week and Officers Week
National Healthcare Security & Safety Week was created to highlight the important role that safety and security officers contribute to the success of patient care in the healthcare facility.

October 11-17 International Central Service/Sterile Processing Week
Starting the second Sunday in October, this event 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.

October 11-17 National Case Management Week
National Case Management Week is always the second full week in October. It’s an opportunity to recognize the dedication, compassion and patient-care outcomes achieved by hospital case managers.

October 12-17 National Recognition Week for Hemodialysis Technicians
The National Association of Nephrology Technicians/Technologists designates the second full week in October each year to recognize hemodialysis technicians who are involved in patient care, dialyzer reuse, equipment maintenance, kidney transplantation and administrative areas.

October 18-24 International Infection Prevention Week
International Infection Prevention Week provides a focal point for infection preventionists, healthcare professionals, consumers, organizations and industry partners to shine a light on infection prevention and its power to save lives. IIPW takes place the third week of October each year.

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October 2015

October 18-24 **National Healthcare Quality Week**
Healthcare Quality Week highlights the work of healthcare quality and patient safety professionals and their influence on improved patient care outcomes and healthcare delivery systems.

October 18-24 **National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week**
National Hospital & Health-System Pharmacy Week acknowledges the invaluable contributions that pharmacists and technicians make to patient care.

October 19-23 **National Medical Assistants Week**
National Medical Assistants Week recognizes medical assistants’ vital role and contributions to the patient-healthcare team while raising awareness of the profession.

October 23-31 **National Red Ribbon Week**
National Red Ribbon Week is 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. This event occurs on October 23-31 each year.

October 25-31 **National Healthcare Facilities & Engineering Week**
This event recognizes the important role that facility managers and engineers play in ensuring a safe and functional environment for all patients, visitors and staff.

October 25-31 **National Massage Therapy Awareness Week**
This event was established to recognize and increase awareness of the benefits and value of massage therapy in health and wellness.

October 25-31 **National Respiratory Care Week**
Sponsored by the American Association for Respiratory Care, the week recognizes respiratory care therapists and celebrates their profession while raising awareness of lung health.

October 25-31 **Pastoral Care Week**
Pastoral Care Week celebrates those who provide spiritual counseling to others. It gives opportunities for organizations and institutions of all kinds and types to recognize the spiritual caregivers in their midst and the ministry caregivers provide.

**Recognition Days**

October 14 **Emergency Nurses Day**
Emergency Nurses Day recognizes hardworking emergency nursing professionals who play an integral role in emergency departments, providing critical care where it is most needed.
November 2015

Month-long Observances

National Alzheimer’s Disease Awareness Month
This event is centered on recognizing all those living with Alzheimer’s disease and honoring the more than 15 million caregivers, including families and friends, who support them.

National Family Caregivers Month
November is designated as a time to thank, support, educate and empower family caregivers.

National Home Care & Hospice Month
This month is set aside to honor the millions of nurses, home care aides, therapists and social workers who make a difference in the lives of the patients and the families they serve.

National Hospice & Palliative Care Month
The National Hospice and Palliative Care Organization dedicates November to reaching out and raising awareness about high-quality end-of-life care.

Week-long Observances

November 1-7 Emerging Nurse Leader Week
This observance, organized by the American Organization of Nurse Executives (AONE), recognizes emerging nurse leaders in hospitals and healthcare facilities. It celebrates the future of nursing leadership, encouraging nurses to learn more about available leadership roles and career paths.

November 1-7 National Allied Health Professions Week
This event honors the 3 million healthcare providers working in more than 80 allied health professions. It promotes the celebration of allied health careers by providers, educators and accrediting organizations.

November 1-7 National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week
National Medical Staff Services Awareness Week is always the first week in November. It gives opportunities for hospitals, MCOs, doctors’ offices, university health systems and government agencies to promote awareness of medical services professionals.

November 1-7 National Medical-Surgical Nurses Week
National Medical-Surgical Nurses Week is celebrated the first week of November each year. It recognizes medical-surgical nurses who care for adult patients in a broad range of settings.

November 1-7 Urology Nurses & Associates Week
Urology Nurses & Associates Week is celebrated the first week of November each year. During this special week, employers, patients and others can pay tribute to urologic healthcare professionals.
November 2015

November 8-14 National Home Care Aide Week
National Home Care Aide Week honors heroes who make a remarkable difference in the lives of patients and the families they serve. They play an invaluable role as caregivers, companions and friends.

November 8-14 National Radiologic Technology Week
This week-long celebration calls attention to the important role medical imaging and radiation therapy professionals play in patient care and healthcare safety.

November 8-14 Perioperative Nurse Week
Perioperative Nurse Week takes place the second week in November. It is a time to recognize and honor perioperative nurses for their important role and commitment to safe patient care.

Recognition Days

November 19 Great American Smokeout
The Great American Smokeout challenges people to stop using tobacco and helps make them aware of the tools they can use to quit for good. The day occurs each year on the third Thursday of November and is sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

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December 2015

Month-long Observances

**Safe Toys & Gifts Month**
PreventBlindness.org dedicates the month of December to encouraging consumers to choose age-appropriate and safe toys.

Week-long Observances

December 6-12 **National Influenza Vaccination Week**
National Influenza Vaccination Week (NIVW) is a national observance that was established to highlight the importance of continuing influenza vaccination.

Recognition Days

December 1 **World AIDS Day**
World AIDS Day is held annually on December 1 and focuses global attention on the continuing impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The day is designed to encourage each of us to take action to expand our collective response to the epidemic.

October 3 **International Day of Persons with Disabilities**
Over 1 billion people, or approximately 15 percent of the world’s population, live with some form of disability! This day provides an opportunity to further raise awareness of disability and further the global efforts to promote accessibility, remove all types of barriers and realize the full and equal participation of persons with disabilities in society.

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