

For Immediate Release:

## **New Report Highlights NAC Training Needs as Staffing Challenges Continue**

Denver, CO, Sept. 11, 2023 – According to data in the [2023 AAPACN Nurse Assessment Coordinator Work Study and Salary Report](#), released today by the American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing (AAPACN), 26% of nurse assessment coordinators (NACs) have two or fewer years of experience in their role, a sharp increase over previous years' data.

“If we look back to the NAC work study from 2014, only 7% of NACs reported two or fewer years of experience,” explains AAPACN Curriculum Development Specialist, Jessie McGill, RN, RAC-CT. “This year’s study also showed an increase in NACs with no long-term care experience at all.” In the 2014 survey, no NACs reported having two or fewer years of long-term care experience compared to 5% of NACs in the new survey.

With the on-going challenge of staff shortages worsened by the turnover during the COVID-19 pandemic, the data suggest that facilities are willing to hire and train nurses with no long-term care or NAC experience to fill the position; however, McGill cautions that facilities need to support newer NACs with training and education.

“From the data, we found that less experienced NACs completed CAAs up to 34% quicker than NACs with more years of experience,” explains McGill. “This could mean that NACs are not receiving adequate training in the completion of CAAs, which then places the facility at risk for ineffective care plans and survey citations.”

New NACs must be competent in their understanding of the RAI process and MDS coding instructions. Support by facility leadership and investing in their education is crucial to the success and retention of this key position.

About the AAPACN Nurse Assessment Coordinator Work Study and Salary Report

AAPACN conducts bi-annual work time study and salary research through a survey sent to more than 16,000 AAPACN members and opened to non-members via AAPACN's social media channels. The survey report documents average completion times for the MDS by assessment type, compensation levels by various factors, time factors affecting accurate MDS assessment, and nursing home staffing practices and trends. The 2023 study provides a representative sample of the NAC field with a 95% confidence level and a +/- 3.8% margin of error.

About AAPACN

The [American Association of Post-Acute Care Nursing](#) (AAPACN) represents more than 18,000 post-acute care nurses and professionals working in more than 5,500 facilities. Dedicated to supporting PAC nurses and healthcare professionals in providing quality care, AAPACN offers members best in-class education, certification, resources, and strong collaborative communities.

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