



FOOD ALLERGY NURSING ASSOCIATION

Advancing Food Allergy Care

The Role of Food Allergy Nursing Association (FANA)

Empowering Nurses, Transforming Outcomes

SECTION I

The Food Allergy Landscape

Understanding the scale and complexity of food allergy care today, and why specialized nursing is essential.



A Rapidly Evolving Treatment Landscape

From avoidance to active intervention — a paradigm shift in food allergy care



PARADIGM SHIFT

From strict avoidance to active treatment — OIT, biologics, and early introduction are redefining food allergy care and practice

FDA APPROVED

Emerging biologics such as omalizumab (Xolair) broadening therapeutic options and requiring specialized nursing oversight

PREVENTION

Early introduction strategies reducing allergy risk requiring specialized guidance and monitoring

COMPLEXITY

Increasing care complexity demands expanded clinical teams and specialized nursing competencies across all practice settings

DEMAND

Growing patient and family demand for expert-guided support — beyond what the allergist visit alone can provide in time and scope

Nurses as Clinical Partners in OIT Care



Supporting allergists to deliver safe, comprehensive, patient-centered care

Frontline Education

Nurses are often the primary point of contact for educating patients and families on allergen avoidance, early introduction, emergency action plans, and daily management strategies.

Continuous OIT Monitoring

RNs provide real-time clinical monitoring during OIT dosing and food challenges, evaluating physical, psychological, and emotional patient and caregiver responses.

Bridging Clinic to Daily Life

Nurses translate complex diagnoses into actionable daily disease management plans, closing the gap between the allergist's office and the patient's home, including community resource navigation.

The Allergist-Nurse Model

The Allergist-Nurse collaborative model is established best practice for safe, effective OIT delivery. APRNs in many settings serve as clinical extenders with expert judgment.

"The nursing profession is an untapped resource in allergy care." — FANA

Gaps in Current Nursing Education



Why the workforce is not yet equipped for modern food allergy care

IDENTIFIED GAPS

- No standardized food allergy curriculum in nursing programs
- Limited CE opportunities specific to the food allergy subspecialty
- Inconsistent training on OIT protocols, anaphylaxis management, and emerging therapies
- Minimal exposure to psychosocial aspects of food allergy
- No formal certification or credentialing pathway for allergy nursing in the US

CONSEQUENCES

- Nurses enter allergy practice unprepared for the complexity of OIT and modern care
- Variability in care quality and patient safety standards across practices
- Missed opportunities for nurse contributions to innovation and research
- Higher burden on allergists to train staff from scratch — every time
- Patients and families receive inconsistent education and support

SECTION II

FANA: Filling the Gap

The Only International Nursing
Association Dedicated to Food Allergy

*Who we are, how we were built, and what we offer
for nurses, patients, and their care teams.*



Where Experience Meets the Purpose

2019

Founded by a group of nurses asking:
"Where are the nurse educators to help families navigate this complex, life-threatening diagnosis?"

2022

Published in Allergic Living Magazine, outlining the vision for a Certified Allergy Nurse Educator role. Reader survey gathered 178 responses across 36 states and 3 countries.

2024

After 5 years of grassroots work, FANA became a 501(c)(3) nonprofit. Launched FoodAllergyNursing.org, a hub for evidence-based education, training, and community.

How FANA was born from the front lines of food allergy care

FANA's Mission & Vision

The only international nursing association dedicated to food allergy



“To advance nursing education, research, leadership, innovation, and professional collaboration in the food allergy subspecialty with the ultimate goal of improving patient outcomes and quality of life.”

1

Education & Leadership

Equipping nurses with specialized training, continuing education, and leadership pathways in the food allergy subspecialty

2

Innovation & Collaboration

Supporting scalable care models through interdisciplinary partnerships and innovative practice frameworks including the ANE role via Telenursing

3

Research & Scholarship

Advancing nursing research and translating evidence into practice, driving measurable improvements in patient care and outcomes

FANA's Current Offerings

Empowering nurses with the knowledge, community, and leadership to transform food allergy care



CE-Accredited Education

Evidence-based courses on OIT, anaphylaxis, and emerging therapies designed for clinical excellence and professional development

Clinical Tools & Resources

Practical protocols and care frameworks built for daily nursing practice: from patient education to safety checklists & best practices

Expert Speaker Events

High-caliber faculty from allergy, immunology, nursing science, and public health bringing cutting-edge content to our members

Peer Networking & Mentorship

A supportive community of food allergy nurses sharing knowledge, experience, and clinical insights across practice settings globally

Leadership Development

Clear pathways to advance nurses' career, cultivate expertise and influence from practice to advocacy

Research & Advocacy

Opportunities to contribute to nurse-led scholarship, shape food allergy policy, and advance health equity in underserved communities

FANA's Reach & Collaborations

Building the interdisciplinary infrastructure food allergy nursing needs

World-Class Faculty

Experts from allergy/immunology, nursing science, and public health ensure every FANA program delivers cutting-edge, evidence-based content at every event

Research to Practice

Keeping members current on emerging science and translating the latest findings into actionable clinical care closing the evidence-to-practice gap for allergy nurses

Interdisciplinary Perspectives

Allergists, nurses, scientists, patient advocates, and policy leaders bring diverse viewpoints that enrich learning and inspire innovation across care settings

Collaborations

FANA has partnered with NYAM, SONSIEL, AANP, AAAAI, FARE, AFAA, and FOODiversity amplifying impact and reach across the nursing ecosystem

The Many Roles of the Food Allergy Nurse



Nurses support every dimension of allergy care — clinical, educational, and operational

Nurse Clinician

Assessment, monitoring & protocol implementation during OIT and food challenges

Patient & Family Educator

Allergen avoidance, epinephrine auto-injector training & psychosocial support

ALLERGY NURSE

Case Manager

Care coordination across clinical settings, schools, and community resources

Research Coordinator

Contributing to clinical trials, data collection & best practice development

OIT Program Manager

Overseeing therapy logistics, scheduling, safety monitoring & follow-up

SECTION III

The Certified Allergy Nurse Educator (ANE)

FANA's Innovation
Pillar in Action

*A transformative vision for food allergy care
grounded in evidence, ready for implementation.*



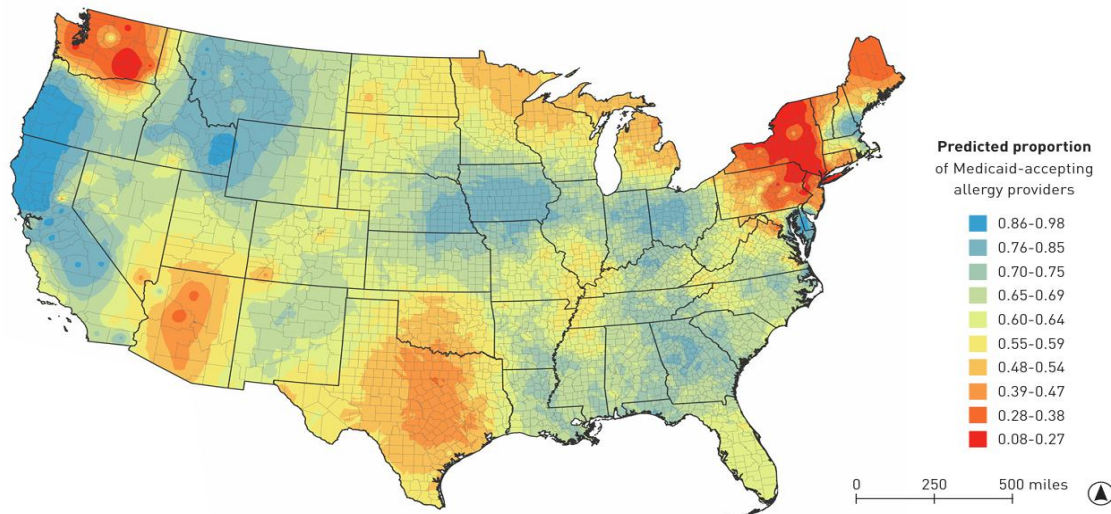
foodallergynursing.org

The Access Gap: Why ANEs Are Needed Now

Ho et al., 2024 | Medicaid Acceptance Among Allergists Across the US, The American Journal of Managed Care

Medicaid Acceptance Among Allergists

FIGURE 1. Geographic Variability of Proportion of Allergy Medical Providers Who Accept Medicaid*



*Map illustrating predicted proportion of Medicaid-accepting allergists. Geospatial interpolation analysis was used to create this map. Higher output values, represented by cooler colors, indicate areas predicted to have a higher proportion of Medicaid acceptance. Lower output values, represented by warmer colors, indicate areas predicted to have lower rates of Medicaid acceptance.

33M

Americans affected by
food allergies (CDC, 2023)

55%

of allergists accept
Medicaid nationally (Ho et al., 2024)

13%

lowest state Medicaid
acceptance rate (New York)

Proposed Solution: The C-ANE Role

Certified Allergy Nurse Educator (C-ANE) — Across Care Settings



SOLUTION

Develop a comprehensive, evidence-based online curriculum to equip registered nurses with the competencies needed to support individuals with food allergies — preparing nurses to serve as integral members of multidisciplinary care teams and trusted community resources.

DEMONSTRATED INTEREST

Stakeholder Market Analysis Survey (n=178): 55% of RNs expressed interest in becoming a Certified Allergy Nurse Educator once the credential becomes available.

DESIRED OUTCOMES

- Increased competency and standardized knowledge among RNs in food allergy care
- Expanded access to evidence-based education in underserved and rural communities
- A defined, recognized career pathway that attracts specialized nursing talent to allergy

The Certified Allergy Nurse Educator (ANE) Role



A visionary proposal — grounded in evidence, ready for implementation

1

Bridge the Gap

Connect clinical diagnosis to daily disease management for patients and families — and improve timely access to allergists by extending the reach of specialty care into communities.

2

Expert-Led Education

Deliver specialized food allergy education in schools, community health settings, public health systems, and healthcare organizations — where allergists cannot always reach.

3

Empower Families

Provide resilience-building tools, psychosocial support, and ongoing guidance for the community of patients and caregivers managing food allergies across the lifespan.

Other specialties have nurse educators and navigators — it is time for allergy care to have the same.

The ANE Impact: Transforming Outcomes



How the Allergy Nurse Educator role reshapes the landscape of food allergy care

CURRENT STATE

- Fragmented patient education with no standardized approach across practices
- Inconsistent allergy nursing competencies across clinical settings
- Families navigating complex care by relying on ChatGPT and Google
- Limited nurse specialization pathways in allergy care
- High training burden on allergists for every new nursing hire

WITH ANE

- Standardized, evidence-based patient education across all care settings
- Specialty competent nurses arrive trained and ready to contribute
- Continuous family support and empowerment from a credentialed professional
- A defined career pathway that attracts top allergy nursing talent
- Reduced training burden on allergists — with better, consistent patient outcomes

*Research shows roles like diabetes educators and care navigators improve health literacy, reduce costs, and elevate quality of life.
(Wilson et al., 2019; McMurry & Cooper, 2017)*

Innovation Pillar: ANE via Telenursing



Scaling equitable access to food allergy education and support — beyond the clinic

THE TELENURSING ANE MODEL

- Equitable, scalable pathway for families who cannot access or afford specialty allergy care
- Reduces wait times to see an allergist in underserved and rural areas
- Delivers evidence-based education, monitoring, and care coordination virtually
- Improves health literacy, self-management, and reduces emergency care utilization
- Elevates quality of life for patients and families managing food allergies

(Wilson et al., 2019; McMurry & Cooper, 2017)

WHAT THIS MEANS FOR ALLERGISTS

Extended Clinical Reach

ANEs serve patients you cannot reach - expanding practice impact without expanding your schedule

Reduced Training Burden

Credentialed ANEs arrive ready - no more building food allergy knowledge from scratch with each new hire

Better Prepared Patients

Families who receive ANE education arrive to your office more informed and adhere more consistently to treatment

Health Equity Contribution

Telenursing ANEs serve Medicaid populations and rural communities - addressing access gaps the current system leaves unresolved

How You Can Make a Difference



Four ways to champion food allergy nursing excellence — starting today

1 Advocate for the ANE Role

Support the creation of Certified Allergy Nurse Educator positions in your organization or practice. Champion a role that transforms patient outcomes and extends your clinical reach.

2

Hire & Invest in Allergy Nurses

Include FANA membership as part of hiring benefits, onboarding packages, or professional development budgets — to attract and retain specialized nursing talent.

3

Gift FANA Membership

Offer FANA membership as a Nurses Week appreciation gift or team recognition award — an investment in professional growth that builds practice-wide competency.

4

Collaborate with FANA

Partner on education, research, and advocacy initiatives. Serve as faculty. Share your clinical expertise. Together, we elevate the standard of food allergy care nationwide.

Every action we take strengthens the future of food allergy nursing and the patients we all serve.

THANK YOU

Join Us in Advancing Food Allergy Nursing

www.foodallergynursing.org



Become a Member

Become a Speaker

Partner with FANA

Support Our Mission

"Together, we can transform the lived experience of food allergy into a safer, more supported, and more equitable reality for every patient and family."