

Introduction to Professional Nursing – Outline

Roles of a Nurse (What is a nurse?)

- Caregiver
- _____
- Teacher
- Advocate
- Counselor
- Change agent
- Leader
- Manager

Domains of Nursing Practice (What does a nurse do?)

- Provide holistic care to the whole person
- Provide skilled care
- _____
- Teach patients, families, communities about health maintenance
- Support patients and families in critical times
- Help patients navigate the complex health care system

Definitions of Nursing

- Florence Nightingale:
 - Founder of modern nursing
 - Identified correlation between infection and the environment
 - “The act of utilizing the environment of the patient to assist him in his recovery”
- Virginia Henderson’s Definition of the Unique Function of Nursing, 1966
 - “The unique function of the nurse is to assist the individual, sick or well, in the performance of those activities contributing to health or its recovery (or to peaceful death) that he would perform unaided if he had the necessary strength, will or knowledge...”
 - Recognized nurses concern for both the healthy and the ill
- ANA’s Definition of Nursing
 - American Nurses Association
 - “Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, preventions of illness and injury, facilitation of healing, alleviation of suffering through diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations” (2010)

Professionalism in Nursing

- Nurses must function within the policies and cultures of our organization and public expectations
- Starts now as nursing students and develops over time
- Nurses and Nursing Students must be accountable for their actions *

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Legal Aspects of Nursing

- _____ is essential concept of professional nursing and the law
- **Licensed professionals = accountable for our actions**
- Important to know basics of legal concepts
- Decisions and actions must be consistent with legal principles
- Protects us from _____ (being sued)

Scope of Practice

- *What can you do as a nurse*
- Essential care of nursing practice is to deliver _____, patient-centered care
- Work collaboratively as a team with other healthcare professionals
- Scope of practice depends on educational preparation: Generalist, Specialist, Advance Practice

Functions of the Law in Nursing

- Regulates nursing practice
- Differentiates the nurse's responsibilities
- Establishes the boundaries of independent nursing action
- Maintains standards of nursing practice
- _____

Nurse Practice Act

- Regulation of Nursing is a function of state law
- Describes responsibilities for which nurses are accountable
- _____ *
- Differs from state to state

Nurse Practice Act (*Chapter 19 - Delaware Code*)

- Defines the practice of professional nursing
- Sets the educational qualifications and other requirements for licensure
- Determines legal titles and abbreviations nurses may use
- Provides for disciplinary action of licensees
- Defines responsibilities and authorities of State Board of Nursing

State Board of Nursing - *Responsibilities and Authority*

- Establish Standards for Nursing Practice
- Licensing of practitioners
- Establish standards for educational programs
- Prescribe penalties for violations of the Nurse Practice Act

Nursing License

- Legal permit to engage in nursing profession
- Mandatory to practice nursing

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- Specific to state
- Nurse Licensure Compact law – 37 states
- **Licensure is a PRIVILEGE...can be revoked for just cause**

Standards of Care

- To protect public
- Skills and learning possessed by members of profession
- Used to evaluate quality of care nurses provide = become legal guidelines
- Internal Standards of Care
- External Standards of Care

Nursing Process

- _____
- Diagnosis/Analysis
- _____
- Implementation
- _____

Nursing Codes of Ethics

- Set of ethical principles that:
 - Is shared by members of the group
 - Reflects their moral judgements over time
 - Serves as a standard for their professional actions

Liability

Two types of law

- Criminal - Crimes
- Civil - _____
 - Intentional torts - Deliberate attempt to cause pain or suffering
 - Unintentional torts - No intent to do harm = Negligence (failing to act as a reasonably prudent person)

Professional Negligence - Malpractice

- Negligence occurring in performance of one's professional duties
- Failing to act as a reasonable prudent person
- How do we protect ourselves and our license against Malpractice?
 - Function within scope of education, job description, and Nurse Practice Act
 - Follow policies and procedures
 - Build good relationships with our patients
 - Always check patient identity
 - Assess our patients accurately
 - Perform interventions correctly and appropriately
 - Follow the "rights" for medication administration

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- o Maintain clinical competence
- o Ask for assistance in situations where you feel unprepared
- o Always protect patients from harm/injury

Legal Accountability for Student Nurses

- Responsible for own actions - _____
- Liable for own acts of negligence
- When performing duties within scope of professional nursing, held to same standard of care
- Lower standards are NOT applied to nursing students!!
- ALWAYS!
 - o Make sure you are prepared to carry out necessary care to assigned patients
 - o Never perform ANY care without permission from instructor
 - o Never perform a task that you have not been educated on
 - o Ask for help if not sure of what you are doing
 - o Comply with policies and procedures that you are taught
 - o Comply with policies/rules of the School
 - o If you are employed in another role, be careful to perform in role of student