

Advanced Practice Nursing Philosophy

Nurses who perform roles in advanced practice understand the relationship between providing high quality care, exceptional patient centered service, the need for harmonious collaborative relationships among the care team members and various disciplines and finally, the responsibility of ensuring a future for the profession by mentoring, educating and inspiring our newest nurses. Nursing's approach to patient care is holistic, collaborative with patients, based on clinical reasoning that is supported by research or evidence and considerate of individual needs. All advanced practice nurses, whether interfacing with patients, supporting those environments or the caregivers through education, require a firm understanding of each of the professional roles nurses embody in practice.

Understanding and support for each of the roles in nursing is essential to further our profession, yet more importantly to provide quality patient care. Advanced practice nurses in administrative roles provide support and management of the environments where the direct nurse-patient interaction occurs. Administrators in these roles who are nurses are beneficial in that they understand the practice and values of nursing and help to support not only the care provided, but the way in which we deliver that care. Their role is also one that requires expert communication skills used to create a cooperative environment where multiple disciplines come together to provide comprehensive care. In the same respect, nurse educators in academic settings forge new nurses and through them influence the practice environment. However, their reach is not limited to the classroom, nor novice nurses, but extends beyond transfer of knowledge to mentoring and sharing of nursing values through the expert nurse as well.

As with all professions, nursing has set a standard for practice and values that define behaviors, however, no profession is without the people who fall below those thresholds. I believe the advanced practice nurses are the key to raising the bar, if you will, for nursing as a profession. Whether in a clinical practice setting where evidence based nursing research guides practice and clinical expertise is evident; or in administrative roles where we stand side by side with all disciplines to manage the environments and the people who they serve or; as educators in nursing who are the foundation for the new nurses entering our profession, supporting continuing education of practicing nurses or as thought leaders who inspire both within our profession and beyond its boundaries, advanced practice nurses elevate the care we provide and the prominence of our profession.