

Philosophy of Advanced Practice Nursing

Life is about people and relationships. People come from various walks of life with varying beliefs, cultures, languages and abilities which are unique to each individual. These factors along with environment one is exposed to, affects how relationships are established and how the concept of health is approached throughout life. Nurses provide information, education, treatments for illnesses, support, motivation and advocate for the whole person in a nurturing, respectful and professional manner. The advanced practice nurse (APN) is able to take these core skills to the next level by extending it to nurses and patients at all levels through research, evidenced base practice, education, mentorship and leadership.

Advanced practice nursing is nursing at a master's education level or higher, that practices autonomously and is guided by the scope of practice for their specialty (ex. Leadership, Clinical Nurse Specialist, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioner). The APN also uses research and evidence based practice to guide nursing interventions to produce quality outcomes. APN's build on the current body of nursing knowledge while considering the uniqueness of the affected individuals and doing what is best for them and their situations. Nursing leadership and management focuses on marrying the business of healthcare with the clinical aspects. The role of the nursing leader is to promote healthy work environment of clinical quality with nursing autonomy, advancement and innovation while maintaining the fiscal health of the organization. A successful nurse leader focuses on building relationships and tapping in to the unique abilities of nurses to foster an environment of continuous performance improvement and patient satisfaction while keeping finances on target.

The APN has a greater obligation to society to advocate on their behalf for healthcare. APN's should be the trendsetters in political activism, community advocacy and leadership when it comes to healthcare policy or any policies that affect their practice because they are the experts. It is important for APN's to have active involvement in the community through volunteerism or community service to allow the society to benefit from their expertise in not only the treatment of illness but the promotion of health and wellness.