
Advanced Practice in Nursing

Under the Auspices of the *International Council of Nurses (ICN)*

Series Editor

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This series of concise monographs, endorsed by the International Council of Nurses, explores various aspects of advanced nursing practice at the international level.

The ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network definition has been adopted for this series to define advanced nursing practice: “A Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nurse is a registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context and/or country in which s/he is credentialed to practice. A master’s degree is recommended for entry level.”

At the international level, advanced nursing practice encompasses two professional profiles:

Nurse practitioners (NPs) who have mastered advanced nursing practice, and are capable of diagnosing, making prescriptions for and referring patients. Though they mainly work in the community, some also work in hospitals.

Clinical nurse specialists (CNSs) are expert nurses who deliver high-quality nursing care to patients and promote quality care and performance in nursing teams.

The duties performed by these two categories of advanced practice nurses on an everyday basis can be divided into five interrelated roles:

Clinical practice

Consultation

Education

Leadership

Research

The series addresses four topics directly related to advanced nursing practice:

APN in practice (NPs and CNSs)

Education and continuous professional development for advanced practice nurses

Managerial issues related to advanced nursing practice

Policy and regulation of advanced nursing practice

The contributing authors are mainly APNs (NPs and CNSs) recruited from the ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network. They include clinicians, educators, researchers, regulators and managers, and are recognized as experts in their respective fields.

Each book within the series reflects the fundamentals of nursing/advanced nursing practice and will promote evidence-based nursing.

More information about this series at <http://www.springer.com/series/13871>

Madrean Schober

Introduction to Advanced Nursing Practice

An International Focus



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Foreword

Advanced nursing practice can mean many things to many people. These highly knowledgeable and skilled nurses are increasing in popularity as a solution to many of the challenges that healthcare faces today: advances in technology, the increasing complexity of health services, structural changes in healthcare delivery, and changing healthcare needs. The need for a more flexible and cost-effective approach to the delivery of care has never been more appropriate, as the needs of disadvantaged communities and vulnerable populations are being addressed.

In order to understand this role and its importance throughout the globe, it is necessary to examine and compare the role in a variety of international contexts. In *Introduction to Advanced Nursing Practice: An International Focus*, Madrean Schober takes a wide-angle snapshot of the landscape of advanced nursing practice (ANP) across the globe. Starting with the origins of the role, this book highlights the drivers which led to the development of ANP in various countries and how the position has been influenced by international organizations, such as the International Council of Nurses.

With case studies from every continent, *Introduction to Advanced Nursing Practice* discusses some of the controversial issues such as prescribing, diagnoses, and hospital privileges. It takes a hard look at competencies and task reallocation and addresses the development of education for this role, including teaching methods and clinical practice. Regulation, accreditation, certification, and licensure, are also examined, along with frameworks and models of professional regulation from the USA, New Zealand, Scotland, and Ireland.

Advanced practice nurses are skilled in assessing individuals, families, and community health needs and diagnosing the need for nursing intervention. Their preparation allows them to provide integrated care, including disease management, making or receiving referrals, or supervising and guiding other caregivers. How the APN role interconnects within healthcare systems and between other healthcare professionals is an important part of this book, which also looks at the challenges of professional conflict and public acceptance of the role.

Advanced practice nurses are capable of planning and implementing programs to promote the health of communities, and they are prepared in the methodology of research that enables a critical look at the quality, relevance and outcomes of care, and can use this to improve practice and expand services. This role can open up many career paths, and this publication looks at the professional progression up the

clinical career ladder, including scopes of practice, performance reviews, and evaluation.

Covering all aspects of this role, this book also looks at the importance of research and how we can strengthen the advanced nursing practice agenda. It is high time for a thorough examination of this role across the globe, and this is exactly what this impressive book provides. I am delighted that such a thought-provoking, analytical review of advanced nursing practice has finally been published.

Geneva, Switzerland

Dr Judith Shamian
President of the International Council of Nurses

Preface

The launching of the International Council of Nurses' International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network in 2000 signaled the beginning of a new era in the recognition of the progression of advanced nursing practice worldwide. Long thought to be the realm of professional practice in the United States, it seemed development of advanced practice nursing roles was on its way to travel around the globe. Representatives from 25 countries, displaying their national flags, gathered for the Network launching to provide encouragement, inspiration, and energy for what had become an international phenomenon. Since that time, enthusiasm for advanced nursing practice continues and interest in the advancement of nursing has progressed.

Increased visibility revealed uncertainty as to the intent and function of this new category of nurses. The International Council of Nurses observed this situation and took the first step in 2002 to recommend a definition, scope of practice, and characteristics for a nurse practicing in an advanced capacity and role. The intent was to present an international benchmark to refer to and thus encourage countries to discuss and develop the concept sensitive to their national context. Since that time the discipline of advanced nursing practice has grown, discussions have become more highly developed, and research on the subject has increased.

Built on the growing body of knowledge and maturing nature of advanced nursing, this book is intended to be a resource for healthcare professionals and key decision makers. Chapter 1 provides an overview of advanced nursing practice. The overview includes a definition, characteristics, and assumptions associated with advanced practice. The growing presence of advanced nursing practice is acknowledged in Chap. 2. In addition to identifying the impetus behind national initiatives, this chapter provides in-depth profiles of country-specific development. Chapter 3 describes the nature of advanced practice nursing including the significance of reaching consensus on a designated and context appropriate title. Principles of education for these advanced nursing roles are presented in Chap. 4. Dimensions of role and practice development comprise Chap. 5 followed by the essence of professional regulation in Chap. 6. Challenges when introducing this category of nurse into the healthcare workforce and strategies to face issues that might be brought into question are discussed in Chap. 7. Professional progression and career pathways that integrate advanced practice nurses into the healthcare workforce are suggested in Chap. 8. Chapter 9 depicts the essential nature and significance of research that

promotes and supports advanced nursing practice. Finally, the concluding chapter proposes consideration of an agenda for the future.

The author draws on extensive personal international experience with country initiatives and close association with the continually evolving ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network. In addition, selectively chosen key country and regional representatives, literature and unpublished sources complement the experiences of the author. Key informants have been chosen on the basis that they are formal or informal leaders, persons in positions of authority or experts who have knowledge of role development in their respective countries or regions. For some this is the first time they have portrayed advanced nursing practice development in their country. The enthusiasm and passion of the author for this topic has contributed to the writing of this publication along with a sense of amazement in observing the international evolution of nursing that has taken place in the past 15–20 years.

I am thankful to a number of people who in various ways have contributed to the resonant and extensive nature of this volume on Advanced Nursing Practice. Most importantly, I want to express my sincere gratitude to country and regional representatives who willingly shared stories of role development and in many cases translated the narrative from their first language to English for this publication. This has provided greater depth and understanding of the expansive and worldwide nature of advanced nursing development. I am also indebted to Fadwa Affara, who willingly and generously gave of her time and expertise to review content and provide comment for each chapter. Not only was Fadwa the lead International Council of Nurses' consultant for the launching of the ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network in 2000 but she also continues to campaign tirelessly at an international level for the professional advancement of nursing.

Indianapolis, IN, USA

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