

○ ○ ○ | **Role of the Registered Nurse**

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○ ○ ○ | **Image of Nursing:**

- **Nursing has been evolving for 150 years**
- **Affected by media**
- **Women's issues and changing roles**
- **More technological and science driven**
- **Nurses are decision makers**
- **More male nurses and a push for minorities**
- **Nursing associations promote a more positive image of nursing**
- **Restructuring of health care environments**

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○ ○ ○ | **Characteristics of a Registered Nurse**

- **What does a "real" nurse look like?**
 - ...to your mom
 - ...to the MD
 - ...to your fellow nurses
 - ...to YOU
 - ...as a person who now holds a license

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○ ○ ○ | Nursing as a Profession

- A profession has relevance to social values
- A profession has a training or educational period
- Self-motivation addresses the way you serve the patient and family
- A profession has a code of ethics
- A professional has a commitment to lifelong work
- Members control their profession
- A profession has a theoretical framework
- Members have a common identity

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○ ○ ○ | RN Scope of Practice

- Nurse Practice Act
- ANA Standards
- Evidenced Based Practice
 - Use of CINAHL
- Policy and Procedures

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○ ○ ○ | RN Scope of Practice:
Nurse Practice Act

<http://www.rn.ca.gov/>

Independent Functions

Direct services: Relates to safety, comfort, hygiene, patient protection, disease prevention, restorative measures, performance of skin tests, immunization technique, withdrawal of blood, observation of signs and symptoms of illness, reactions to treatment, determination of abnormal characteristics leading to reporting or referral or emergency procedures.

Indirect services: Delegation and supervision of patient care activities performed by CNA or others

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○ ○ ○ | **RN Scope of Practice:
Nurse Practice Act**

Dependent Functions
Direct services: administration of medications and therapeutic agents to implement a treatment, disease prevention, or rehab regimen ordered by MD, dentist, podiatrist or clinical psychologist
Indirect services: only if delegated to a licensed vocational nurse within their scope of practice

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○ ○ ○ | **RN Scope of Practice:
Nurse Practice Act**

Interdependent Functions
 Implement standardized procedures or changing treatments in accordance to standardized procedures

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○ ○ ○ | **RN Scope of Practice:
ANA Standards (too many to list)**

<http://www.nursingworld.org/FunctionalMenuCategories/MediaResources/PressReleases/2005/pr03238523.aspx>

Six Standards of Practice
 1. Assessment, 2. Diagnosis, 3. Outcomes Identification, 4. Planning, 5. Implementation, and 6. Evaluation

Nine Standards of Professional Performance
 7. Quality of Practice, 8. Education, 9. Professional Practice Evaluation, 10. Collegiality, 11. Collaboration, 12. Ethics, 13. Research, 14. Resource Utilization, and 16. Leadership.

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○ ○ ○ | RN Scope of Practice:
ANA Standards—current issues
being addressed

- Staff nurse is the backbone of the American health care system
- Safe staffing issues
- Mandatory overtime (staffing tool)
 - Fatigue
 - Negative impact of patient care
 - Medical errors
 - Driving nurses away from the bedside
- Code of Ethics
- Rights of Nurses
- Job Safety (back injuries, safe needles, equipment, ergonomics)

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○ ○ ○ | RN Scope of Practice:
Evidenced Based Practice

- CINAHL (Cumulative Index of Nursing and Allied Health Literature)
- Database to access journals via Cuesta library (EPSCO host)
<http://library.cuesta.edu/database.htm>
- Nursing Journals
- National Guidelines Clearinghouse
 - Clinical practice guidelines
 - <http://www.guidelines.gov>
- PubMed's Clinical Queries
 - Database for medicine and nursing
 - <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/entrez/query/static/clinical.shtml>

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○ ○ ○ | RN Scope of Practice:
Policy and Procedures

- After you learn basic care, your basic nursing practice standard is considered a policy if an actual policy is not written in the hospital
- Policy and Procedures are standards that are “evidenced based” practice

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