

Parish Nursing/ Faith Community Nursing

Educational partners teach the *Foundations of Faith Community Nursing Curriculum* to registered nurses

Parish nursing is a growing specialty practice of nursing that is recognized by the American Nursing Association as Faith Community Nursing. It is also a ministry that is embraced by many different Christian denominations as well as other faith traditions.

As a nursing specialty, there are specific qualifications for those entering parish nursing. The person must be a registered nurse, with at least 2-5 years of experience where skills have been developed for health assessment and problem-solving.

The role of a parish nurse is governed by the American Nurses Association's Scope and Standards for Registered Nurses, Scope and Standards for Faith Community Nurses, the Nurse Practice Act in the state the nurse practices, and the tasks in which the nurse owns competency. Actions and tasks will include:

- Advocacy, education, and referrals for clients
- Monitoring of the health and spiritual issues of clients
- Providing emotional and spiritual support to clients and families
- Actions that are derived from nursing diagnosis and assessments according to the nursing Scope and Standards for Registered Nurses and the Scope and Standards for Faith Community Nurses
- Any medical care for which the nurse is licensed or has been declared 'competent' to provide – if the medical care required is not a current skill of the nurse, then a referral to the appropriate caregiving service or emergency treatment is the only course of action
- Any care that is provided as a 'good Samaritan' in an emergency situation when other caregivers are not available
- Actions and tasks that are not included:
 - Treatments, medications, medical care that must be directed/supervised by a physician's order
 - Routine medical care that is the responsibility of agencies under the client's physician's direction

Copies of either set of Scope and Standards can be obtained from the ANA or your favorite on-line book seller.

Some Assumptions of PN Practice & Curriculum

- The participant is a registered nurse with a current license or a student in a baccalaureate nursing education program
- The practice is considered a calling where ministry shapes the practice
- The practice encourages a partnership model between parish nurses, individuals, families, faith communities, and communities across the life span
- The practice values *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*(ANA/HMA 2011) in the US; other countries area accountable to their specific standards of practice
- The curriculum focuses on core concepts of spiritual formation; professionalism; shalom as health and wholeness; and community; incorporating culture and diversity
- The curriculum is developed from a Judeo-Christian theological framework of care and applicable to and respectful of other faith traditions
- The curriculum develops the nurse for a leadership role in collaborative health ministry
- The curriculum supplies the content to develop and sustain faith community nursing practice and individual spiritual growth