

## ADVANCED PRACTICE IN EMERGENCY NURSING

### Description

Advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs) are highly qualified clinicians who are positioned to serve an integral role in emergency health care systems. Advanced Practice Registered Nurse is regulatory title, and four advanced practice roles have been delineated in *The Consensus Model for Advanced Practice Registered Nurse*. Advanced practice registered nurses have a broad depth of knowledge and expertise in their specialty and can manage complex clinical and system issues. Nurses in advanced clinical practice provide comprehensive health assessments and demonstrate a high level of autonomy and expert skill in the diagnosis and treatment of many complex problems. In the emergency setting APRNs are uniquely prepared to develop and apply theory, conduct research, educate health care providers and consumers, and develop standards of practice that contribute to optimum patient outcomes.

### ENA position

It is the position of the Emergency Nurses Association that:

1. Advanced practice registered nurses can practice effectively in an emergency environment and use their abilities, knowledge, and specialized skills to meet the needs of patients and their families or significant others at the point of crisis or need.
2. Advanced practice registered nurses can effectively extend themselves into to the communities by providing educational opportunities that assist individuals and communities in the promotion of safe practices, healthy behaviors, and prevention of injury and illness.

### Background

Emergency health care has been touched by critical changes in recent years. The volume of patients visiting emergency centers has increased dramatically to the extent that crowding, flow, and throughput have been added to the daily vocabulary of emergency nurses. In many locations, steady streams of anxious, vulnerable people who have complex medical conditions or are without care options appear at the emergency department doors. Patients in search of mental health services and treatment seek counseling or care in emergency departments. These issues have created a need for both innovative and cost effective approaches to care delivery. Health care reform initiatives designed to transform the nation's health system will require the utilization of all clinicians who are permitted to practice to the full extent of their license.

The following documents provide the framework necessary to identify the practice of advanced practice nurses in emergency health care settings.

- The Emergency Nurses Association's *Emergency Nursing Scope and Standard of Practice*.

- The Emergency Nurses Association's *Standards of Practice for Nurse Practitioners in the Emergency Care Setting*.
- The Emergency Nurses Association's *Standards of Practice for Clinical Nurse Specialist in the Emergency Care Setting*.
- The National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties' *Domains and Core Competencies for Nurse Practitioner's Practice*.
- The National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists' *Statement on Clinical Nurse Specialist Practice and Education*.
- The American Nurses Association's *Scope of Practice for Registered Nurses*.
- The American Nurses Association's *Code of Ethics for Nurses: Application and Interpretation*.

## References

1. Chan, G. K. & Garbez, R. O. (2006). Education of advanced practice nurses for emergency care settings: Emphasizing competencies and domains. *Advanced Emergency Nursing Journal*, 28, 216–225.
2. American Nurses Association. (2008) *Consensus model for APRN regulation: Licensure, accreditation, certification and education*. Retrieved from <http://www.nursingworld.org/DocumentVault/APRN-Resource-Section/ConsensusModelforAPRNRegulation.pdf>

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