

Advanced Nurse Practitioner

An International Perspective

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ICN International Nurse Practitioner/Advanced Practice Nursing Network (INP/NPNN)

An international resource for nurses practising in nursing practitioner (NP) or advanced practice nursing (APN) roles, and interested others (e.g. policymakers, educators, regulators, health planners.

(ICN, 2000)

Achievements of Network

- ❑ Definition of the Advanced Practice Nurse (APN).
- ❑ Identification of role characteristics.
- ❑ International APN core competencies.
- ❑ Definition of scope of practice.
- ❑ Standards for education and regulation.

ICN Definition of the Advanced Practice Nurse

... 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.

(ICN, 2002)

Educational Preparation

- ❑ Educational Preparation at an advanced level.
- ❑ Formal recognition of educational programmes.
- ❑ A formal system of licensure, registration, certification or credentialing.

(ICN, 2002)

Nature of Practice

- ❑ The ability to integrate research, education and clinical management.
- ❑ High degree of autonomy and independent practice.
- ❑ Case management.
- ❑ Advanced assessment and decision making skills.
- ❑ Recognized advanced clinical competencies.
- ❑ The ability to provide consultant services to other health professionals.
- ❑ Recognized first point of entry for services.

(ICN, 2002)

Regulatory Mechanism – country specific regulations that underpin APN practice

- ❑ Right to diagnose.
- ❑ Authority to prescribe medications and treatments.
- ❑ Authority to refer to other professionals.
- ❑ Authority to admit to hospital.
- ❑ Title protection.
- ❑ Legislation specific to advanced practice.

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Global Issues affecting Advanced Nursing Practice

An uncertain identity which contributes to poor role clarification

Absence of a clearly defined scope
of practice leading to difficulties in
defining accountability and
delineating responsibilities

Scope of APN Practice

...a **cognitive, integrative and technical** ability of the qualified nurse to put into practice **ethical and culturally safe acts, procedures, protocols and practice guidelines**.

The clinical practice of the APN is **scientifically based** and applicable to healthcare practice in **primary, secondary and tertiary settings in all urban and rural communities**.

The role also encompasses the dimensions of **patient and peer education, mentorship, leadership, management** and includes the responsibility to **translate, utilize and undertake meaningful research to advance and improve nursing practice**.

Proliferation of titles

E. g. Nurse practitioner, advanced practice nurse, advanced nursing practice, nurse specialist, nurse consultant, advanced nurse practitioner, and clinical nurse specialist

No clearly identifiable processes specific to skills, knowledge acquisition or special competencies of advanced nursing practice that are obviously associated with title selection

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Lack of recognition by
other health professionals

**APNs practise under
varied levels of autonomy**

Regulatory Standards for ANP

1. Develop and maintain sound **credentialing mechanisms** that enable the authorized nurse to **practice in the advanced role** within the established scope of practice.
2. Establish relevant civil legislation or rules to **acknowledge the authorized role**, monitor the **competence**, and protect the public as well as the nurse practising in the advanced role.
3. Periodically revise regulatory language to **maintain currency** with practice and scientific discoveries.
4. Establish the **title protection** through rule making or civil legislation

(ICN 2005)

Fragmentation and variability in standards and quality of education programmes

- ❑ Inadequate financial and other resources.
- ❑ Faculty shortages or faculty ill equipped to educate APNs. lack of faculty a problem even in countries with a long history in advanced nursing education, and may be significant in limiting the dissemination of the role.
- ❑ An overcrowded curriculum.
- ❑ Lack of availability or poorly suited clinical sites.
- ❑ Limited exposure to good role models or mentors, including poor understanding of the APN role.
- ❑ An absence of accreditation of educational programmes.

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Educational Standards for ANP

1. Prepare the student, a registered/licensed nurse generalist nurse for **practice beyond of the generalist nurse**, by including opportunities to access knowledge and skills as well as demonstrate its integration in clinical practice as a safe, competent and autonomous practitioner.
2. Prepare the nurse to practice within the nation's health care system to the **full extent of the role as set out in the scope of practice**.
3. Staffed by **faculty qualified and prepared at or beyond the level of the student** undertaking the programme of study.
4. **Accredited/approved** by the authorized credentialing national or international body.
5. Facilitate **lifelong learning and maintenance of competencies**.
6. Provide access to a **sufficient range of clinical experience** to apply and integrate theoretical content while under **qualified supervision**. (ICN 2005)

Challenges

Acknowledge diversity of health care systems worldwide without losing advanced nursing practice core characteristics.

International consensus on the scope of practice founded on the core values of nursing, a scope that engages APNs in a range of advocacy, disease prevention, and treatment and health promotion activities.

Achieve consistency across clinical and educational models for advanced nursing practice.

Continually renew practice by adding new competencies that reflect dynamic changes in health care?

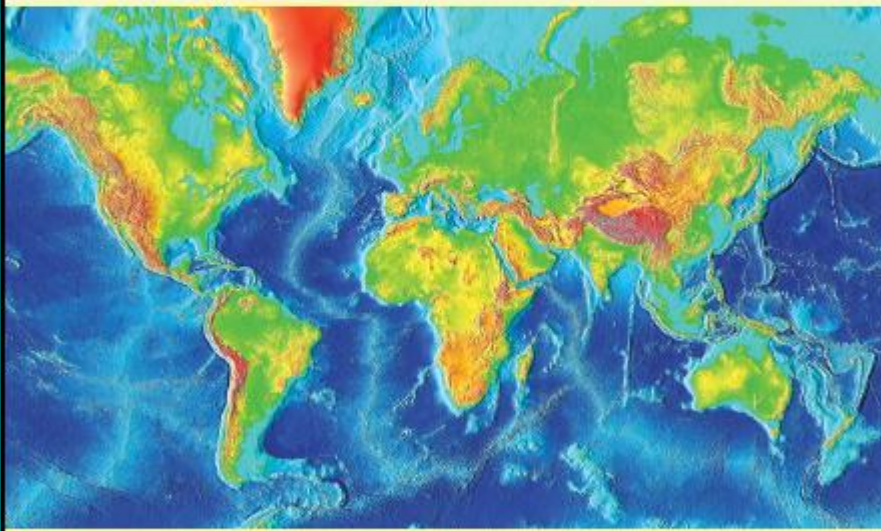
Provide evidence that APNs are sustainable, cost effective and valued healthcare providers.

Willing and able to provide care in partnership with patients, their families, other healthcare providers and communities.



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Advanced Nursing Practice



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ICN website

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