

Advanced Nursing Practice

This position statement was developed following extensive consultation with NZNO members during 1999 and 2000. In both 2005 and 2008 it was updated to include more recent developments. The updates appear separately on page three.

New Zealand has an opportunity to have a unified and consistent approach to advanced nursing practice and the recognition of those practising at that level. NZNO is committed to participating fully in shaping the future of advanced nursing practice and recognition of practitioners working at that level.

Purpose

Nurses have always expanded and advanced their practice roles to meet the health needs of the public and the primary purpose of advanced nurse practitioners is to empower and maximise the health outcomes of New Zealanders.

Definition and Scope

Being an expert-by-experience in a specialty is not on its own sufficient for advanced nursing practice. Nor is accepting more delegated medical tasks or technical procedures. Advanced practice differs from expert practice or extended task roles in its scope and sphere of influence and its application of advanced nursing knowledge.

The scope of advanced nursing practice is distinguished by autonomy to practice at the edges of the expanding boundaries of nursing. It is firmly grounded in the unique body of knowledge that is nursing. In advanced nursing practice, the nurse makes use of scientific theories drawn from nursing and other disciplines, as well as current research which enables articulation of sound rationale for the selection of nursing actions.

One hallmark of advanced practice is the use of self-initiated treatment regimes, and collaborative working relationships, as opposed to dependent functions. Discriminative judgement is used in solving complex nursing problems. And for New Zealand nurses, the principles of partnership, protection and participation, enshrined in the Treaty of Waitangi, underpin all nursing actions.

Advanced practice occurs in all contexts of health care. Some nurses specialise as educators, administrators or researchers.

These roles support nursing practice however NZNO's position is that advanced nursing practice roles include a direct care component. The role functions of advanced nurse practitioners include practice, education, research, leadership and consultancy. Independent nurse prescribing within a particular scope of practice may or may not be a role for a particular advanced nurse practitioner.

Standards

- Articulates the scope of nursing practice and its advancement
- A sound philosophy of nursing underpins practice
- Operates and expands practice within a theoretical framework
- Demonstrates effective nursing practice at an advanced level

- Works both autonomously and collaboratively across settings and within interdisciplinary environments
- Improves quality and health outcomes
- Evaluates health care needs and practice
- Participates in scholarly inquiry
- Is innovative and changes practice reflecting knowledge of recent developments in nursing and health
- Shows effective nursing leadership and consultancy
- Develops and influences health/socioeconomic policies and nursing practice at local and national level

Educational Preparation

From the year 2010 advanced nurse practitioners will have achieved a clinically relevant Masters Degree educational preparation for this role.

From the year 2005 a postgraduate diploma will be the minimum educational qualification for advanced nurse practitioners.

Prior to this date a sound specialty practice knowledge or programme may be acceptable providing that it can be demonstrated that the standards in the previous section have been met.

This transition period takes into account the move from Diploma to Degree qualification for Registration as a nurse during the 1990s and the relatively recent development of clinically focused postgraduate papers.

Nurses currently practising as advanced nurse practitioners should not be disadvantaged because of non-availability of relevant postgraduate education until recently. They should be given the opportunity to demonstrate their existing competence to facilitate recognition of their existing skill and knowledge without a need for repetition of learning. Recognition of the prior learning of these nurses gained in multiple ways is supported.

Recognition and Regulation

NZNO supports recognition and professional self-regulation through professional associations and not through statute, the exception being the Registration of Independent Nurse Prescribers. All nurses are responsible for their own actions and must not act beyond their individual level of competence and preparation.

NZNO supports a national standard being adopted by all nursing groups in New Zealand for the process of credentialling advanced nurse practitioners. National standards for professional self-regulation will ensure national recognition and portability of the conferment of advanced practice.

NZNO recognises and credentials advanced nurse practitioners through the NZNO Certification Committee.

Remuneration

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NZNO supports appropriate financial remuneration for advanced nurse practitioners which recognises their advanced knowledge and skills and the contribution they make to quality health outcomes.

NZNO encourages and endorses employers that support nurses working towards attainment of advanced nursing practice through providing financial assistance for postgraduate education and clinical experience.

2005 Update

Subsequent to NZNO's position statement release in June 2000, the Nursing Council of New Zealand (NCNZ) introduced a credentialing process to endorse Nurse Practitioners in 2001. The Nurse Practitioner (NP) scope of practice is gazetted under the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act 2003.

2008 Update

In 2006 NZNO ceased certifying nurses through a Certification Committee. A number of NZNO colleges and sections accredit proficient and advanced practice. The NCNZ also has undertaken a review of the NP competencies and the outcome is not known at the time of this update. Current information can be accessed through the NCNZ website www.nursingcouncil.org.nz and the NZNO website www.nzno.org.nz

Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee of New Zealand

NZNO's position on self-regulation through professional associations and not through statute resulted in an invitation to other nursing associations to work collaboratively with NZNO in preparing a proposal for NCNZ regarding professional association input into matters relating to NP criteria and endorsement processes.

The outcome of this proposal was the establishment of the Nurse Practitioner Advisory Committee of New Zealand (NPAC-NZ), a collaboration of NZNO, College of Nurses Aotearoa, New Zealand College of Mental Health Nurses and National Council of Maori Nurses working with the NCNZ under a Memorandum of Understanding on matters related to NPs.

NZNO Certification Process

The NZNO Certification process was reviewed following the introduction of NP regulation by the NCNZ. In 2003 NZNO approved the continuation of Certification of Nurse Clinicians, but halted Certification of the Nurse Consultant (Clinical) level. NZNO Certification of Nurse Clinicians stopped in 2006.

The NZNO website has further information on the NPAC-NZ activities. Position statements may be downloaded from the website. Address: www.nzno.org.nz

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Mission statement

NZNO is committed to the representation of members and the promotion of nursing and midwifery. NZNO embraces Te Tiriti o Waitangi and works to improve the health status of all peoples of Aotearoa/ New Zealand through participation in health and social policy development.

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