

Roles of the Associate Degree Nurse

The practice of a graduate from an associate degree nursing program is structured by three major roles – provider of care, manager of care, and member within the discipline of nursing. Embedded in these roles are the roles of communicator and patient teacher. Sinclair's curriculum separates these last two roles in order to emphasize their importance.

Within the role of provider of care, the practice of associate degree nursing is characterized by critical thinking, clinical competence, accountability, and a commitment to caring. Practice applies to patients across the life span, with emphasis on adults who have acute or chronic health needs and require assistance to maintain or restore optimum health or support to die with dignity. The nursing process is used as a basis for decisions. To provide care the nurse must use current knowledge of nursing concepts, processes, and skills. Competencies as provider of care include the ability to assess and identify changes in health status; select nursing diagnoses based on analysis and interpretation of assessment data; develop a plan of care in collaboration with patient, significant others, and health care team; establish priorities of care; implement interventions using technology and safe performance; promote safety; administer the medical regime; demonstrate caring; determine the effects of the nursing interventions on the status of the patient and revise the plan of care as needed.

As communicator, the associate degree nurse must promote psychological safety, establish effective communication, communicate verbally and in writing, make referrals based on patient needs and knowledge of available resources.

As teacher, the ADN must implement teaching plans specific to the patient's level of development, knowledge, and learning needs.

Within the role of manager of care, the practice of associate degree nursing is characterized by collaboration, organization, delegation, accountability, advocacy, and respect for other health care workers. The ADN provides and coordinates care for a group of patients who have health care needs. To be competent in the role as manager of care, the nurse must have an understanding of the principles of care management, communication, delegation, legal parameters of nursing practice, and roles and responsibilities of the health care team members. As manager the ADN practices in a timely and cost-effective manner, follows policies and procedures, promotes effective teamwork, and utilizes appropriate channels of communication. You will be asked to identify what interventions you would delegate in your plan of care for each patient. Review the material from NSG 120 on delegation

Within the role as member within the discipline of nursing, the practice of associate degree nursing is characterized by a commitment to professional growth, continuous learning, and self-development. The ADN practices within the legal and ethical framework of nursing, ensures high standards of practice, contributes to the improvement of nursing, maintains confidentiality, communicates truthfully, uses constructive criticism for improvement, and values nursing as a career.

The scope of practice of the registered nurse in Ohio is determined by the Ohio Nurse Practice Act. The Ohio State Board of Nursing has the authority to enforce the provisions of the Nurse Practice Act and sets the standards for safe practice, implementation of nursing process, and delegation. The Board also has the responsibility to approve continuing education programs. Learn about your Board of Nursing by going to the website, www.nursing.ohio.gov. Select Publications and review the information in the **Board Overview Brochure**.