Characteristics of Advanced Practice Nurse Roles

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Advance Practice Nurse (APN) is a registered nurse. A nurse can be a registered nurse by acquiring the skills of complex decision making, expert knowledge base, and clinical competencies. The process of learning about new techniques and practices continues in advanced practice nursing roles. APN roles are developing worldwide which need more guidance and understanding for advanced development in healthcare. The three characteristics of APN include;

* Educational Preparation
* Regulatory Mechanisms
* Nature of Practice

**Educational Preparation:**

Advance Practice Nurse requires advanced education. A master degree is recommended for the entry level. To acquire the registration nurse has to follow the formal system of registration and licensure. In addition, nurses have to pass certification exams before applying for registration. In addition, continuing education credits are required because the license must renew every two years. The main aim of education preparation is to teach nurses regarding advance practices to make them more experienced and efficient. It results in quality improvement in healthcare.

**Regulatory Mechanisms:**

Every nation acquires their specific regulatory mechanism which nurses have to follow. It includes authority to refer clients to other professionals, prescribe treatment and medication. In addition, they are responsible for admitting the patient to the hospital, and legislation to confer. Most importantly they need to protect the title “Advance Nurse” through her skills and education. This is the officially recognized title for registered nurses working on ANP roles.

**Nature of Practice**:

By following the advance education and regulatory mechanism, APNs follow the specific nature of the practice. It means nurses enhance their skills with the help of education, research, practice, and management. They must show a high degree of professionalism which results in advanced skills of decision making, diagnostic reasoning, and health assessment. They have to participate in plans, implements and evaluates programs. These programs help in recognizing advance clinical competencies and first point of contact for patients (“Advanced Practice Nursing Fact Sheet - 2019 NurseJournal.org,” n.d.).

**Difference between APN role and RN role**

**Educational Preparation:**

APNs and RNs are both certified nurses, however, APNs are more advanced than the RNs. Both APNs and RNs have to give licensing exam which is mandatory to renew the license every two years. RNs acquire two to seven years of nursing education to register as a nurse while APNs require a master degree in nursing. They also have to pass the certification exam in their specialty. This is because they need to provide direct care and management to their patients. Besides this, continuing education credits are required in APNs for maintaining the active license while for RNs there is no such requirement.

**Regulatory Mechanisms:**

Regulatory mechanism varies from state to state. One of the main difference between the APN role and RN role is that APNs can prescribe treatment and medication. This is why an APN has more responsibility as compared to the RN. They are responsible for direct care and management which RN can play the role of helper. For instance, APNs can deliver babies while RNs can only monitor an expectant mother in the labor room. In addition, APNs are helpful to teach the next generation of nurses.

**Nature of practice:**

According to the nature of practice both APNs and RNs provide direct care, however, their scope of practice is different. APNs have more professional capacity and authority. APNs give entire care and manage the numbers of the patient where RNs only help the patients and APNs during the medication. Most of the time APNs practice in the under-served area while RNs practice for direct care for critically ill patients (“Advanced practice nursing roles: development, implementation and evaluation. - Semantic Scholar,” n.d.).

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