



# ***Nursing Science as an investment for health care***

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# Nursing – an important 'human resource' in health care!

**QUANTITY – NURSING INTENSITY  
(RAFAELA-system)**

**QUALITY – CLINICAL  
COMPETENCE**



# What is the goal of Nursing Science?

- The goal of nursing science is to represent the nature of nursing—to understand it, to explain it, and to use it for the benefit of humankind (Parse, 2016).

# ICN's definition of advanced practice nursing (2020, p 8)

- An Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) is a **generalist or specialised nurse** who has acquired, through additional graduate education (minimum of a master's degree), **the expert knowledge base, complex decision-making skills and clinical competencies for Advanced Nursing Practice**, the characteristics of which are shaped by the context in which they are credentialed to practice (adapted from ICN, 2008). **The two most commonly identified APN roles are CNS and NP.** ICN 2020, p.





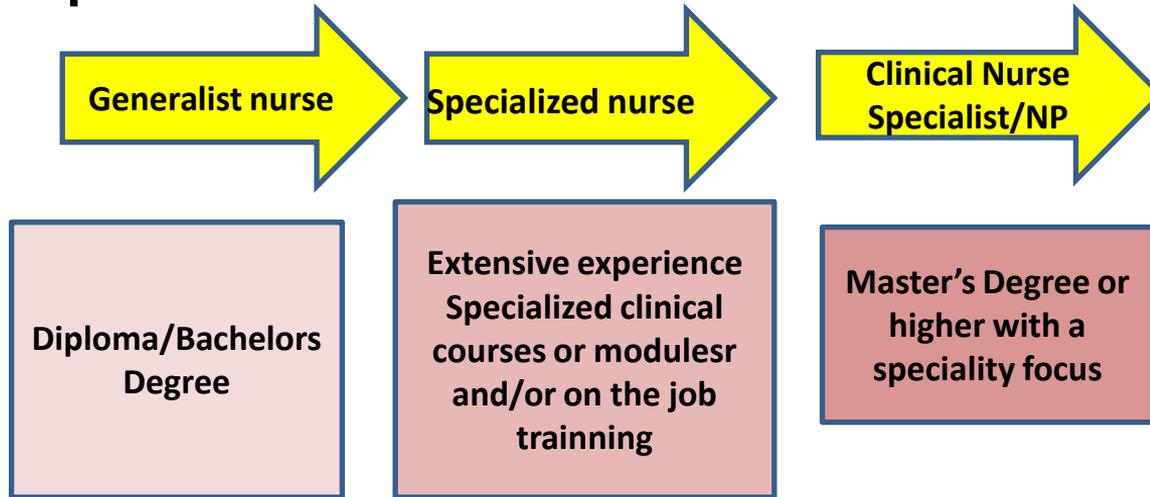
## Advanced Nursing Practice

[https://www.icn.ch/system/files/documents/2020-04/ICN\\_APN%20Report\\_EN\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.icn.ch/system/files/documents/2020-04/ICN_APN%20Report_EN_WEB.pdf)

- **Advanced Nursing Practice** is a **field of nursing that extends and expands the boundaries of nursing's scope of practice, contributes to nursing knowledge and promotes advancement of the profession** (RNABC Policy Statement, 2001). ANP is 'characterised by the **integration and application of a broad range of theoretical and evidence-based knowledge** that occurs as part of graduate nursing education' (ANA, 2010 as cited in Hamric & Tracy, 2019, p. 63).



# Fig 1. Progression from Generalist Nurse to Clinical Nurse Specialist/Nurse Practitioner



International Council of Nurses (2020) Guidelines on advanced practice nursing. [https://www.icn.ch/system/files/documents/2020-04/ICN\\_APN%20Report\\_EN\\_WEB.pdf](https://www.icn.ch/system/files/documents/2020-04/ICN_APN%20Report_EN_WEB.pdf)



# Clinical Nurse Specialist (ICN 2020, p. 8)

- Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) A Clinical Nurse Specialist is an Advanced Practice Nurse who provides **expert clinical advice and care based on established diagnoses in specialised clinical fields of practice along with a systems approach** in practicing as a member of the healthcare team.





# Nurse Practitioner (ICN 2020, p. 8)

- Nurse Practitioner (NP) A Nurse Practitioner is an Advanced Practice Nurse who **integrates clinical skills associated with nursing and medicine in order to assess, diagnose and manage patients**
- **in primary healthcare (PHC) settings and**
- **acute care populations as well as**
- **ongoing care for populations with chronic illness.**



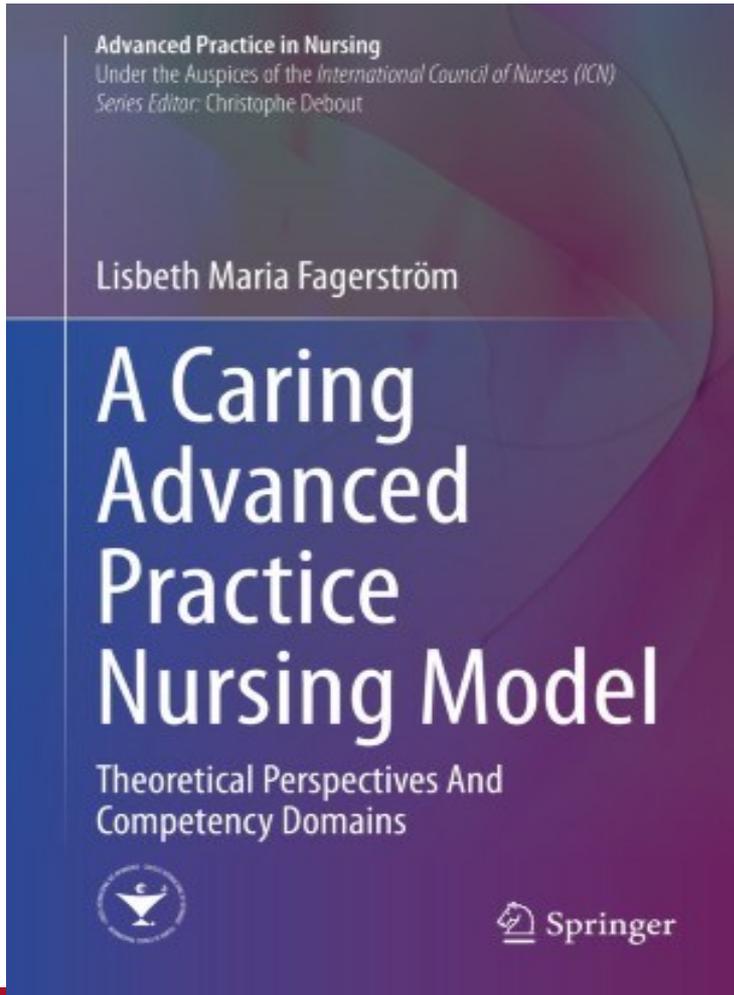
# An International Survey on Advanced Practice Nursing Education, Practice, and Regulation

Joyce Pulcini, Monika Jel, Raisa Gul & Alice Yuen Loke. *Journal of Nursing Scholarship*, 2010; 42:1, 31–39.

**Design:** A cross-sectional, descriptive Web-based survey sent in February and March 2008 to a total of 174 key informants and active members of the International Nurse Practitioner-Advanced Practice Nursing Network of the International Council of Nurses. **Methods:** An international Web-based survey preceded by a pilot survey. **Findings:** Ninety-one nurses from 32 countries responded. Thirteen titles were identified on nomenclature for the NP-APN in different countries. NPAPN education was available in 71% of the 31 countries responding to this item, with 50% identifying the master's degree as the most prevalent credential. Twenty-three countries had formal recognition of the NP-APN role. Of these, 48% had licensure maintenance or renewal requirements for the NPAPN, with most requiring continuing education or clinical practice. The greatest support for the NP-APN role came from domestic nursing organizations (92%), individual nurses (70%), and the government (68%), while opposition came primarily from domestic physician organizations (83%) and individual physicians (67%).

# Advanced Nursing Education Benefits Patients

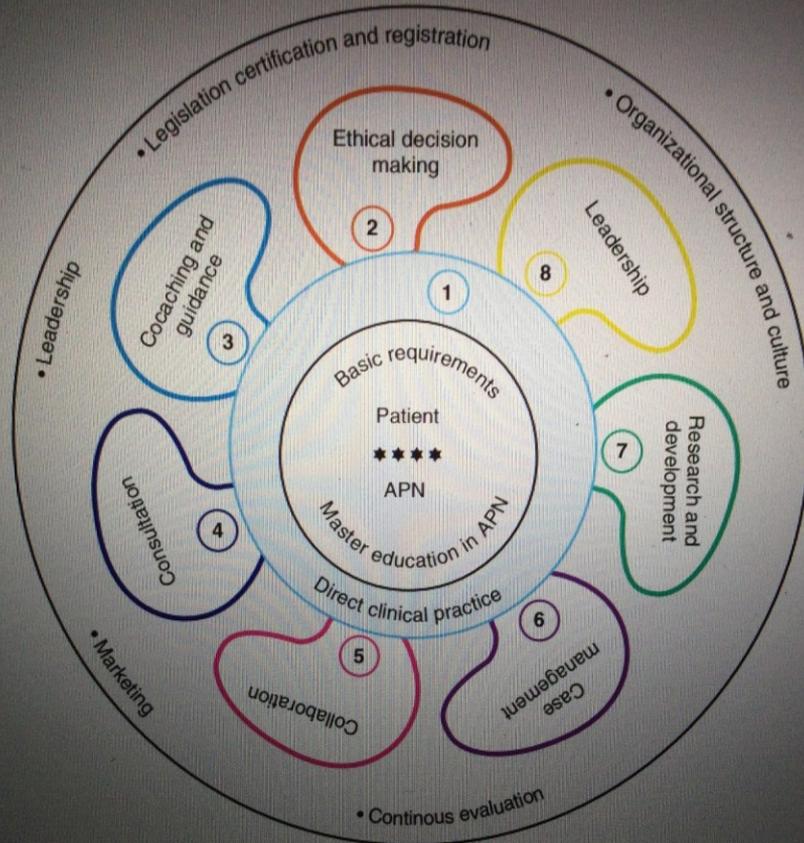
- Because nurses have the greatest amount of contact with patients, a patient's progress and health is largely dependent upon their care and intervention. One factor that consistently benefits patients is having nurses with advanced education; those with an advanced education tend to be more competent and well-versed in the intricacies of healthcare.
- Statistics show that hospitals with a higher percentage of nurses who hold bachelor's degrees in nursing have patients with better outcomes, lower mortality rates, and fewer adverse effects from treatment or hospitalization. In these hospitals, a patient is more likely to receive the appropriate and timely response to changes or deterioration in health.



<https://link.springer.com/book/10.1007/978-3-030-53555-1>

# THE CARING ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING MODEL.

**A SCHEMATIC  
DESCRIPTION  
OF CORE  
COMPETENCY  
DOMAINS AND  
CENTRAL  
NURSING  
SCIENCE  
PERSPECTIVES.  
(Fagerström 2021)**



**Fig. 5.1** The Caring advanced practice nursing model. A schematic description of core competency domains and central nursing science perspectives (Fagerström 2011, 2019a, p. 63). The central theoretical perspectives—holistic view, ethos, caring, and health—are represented by four stars in the middle of the figure. The critical contextual factors that influence advanced practice nursing are represented by points on the outer edges of the circle



# Advanced Practice Nursing – a justified need

- In many countries there have been good results associated with the introduction of advanced practice nursing roles into emergency care, such as significantly shorter waiting times shorter hospital stays and positive effects on the quality of treatment, and patient satisfaction (Jennings et al. 2008, 2015).
- Advanced practice nurses who have more autonomy and a significantly expanded role experience that both colleagues and physicians show them greater trust and respect, while they also simultaneously report that they have become prouder of own skills and knowledge (Kleinpell 2005).

# Advanced practice nursing leads to positive effects

- Advanced practice nurses should work in an evidence-based manner and their care should lead to good patient outcomes.
- The results of several years' experience with implementation of the nurse practitioner role in New Zealand has led to the following conclusions:

“A nurse practitioner combines the best of nursing with some skills from medicine. Nurse practitioners can deliver a large proportion of the services the average person needs in terms of minor, acute illness and long-term conditions such as asthma and diabetes. Through nurse practitioners, we are able to offer the public a whole new access arrangement into healthcare” (Ministry of Health 2009).

# APNs in community health care

- In many countries, advanced practice nurses have been given a strong and central role in community healthcare and care for the elderly.
- Advanced practice nurses can take responsibility for both acute health assessments and the follow-up of patients with chronic health conditions. Researchers have found advanced practice nurses' holistic approach to patients and patients' relatives to be very valuable (Fahey-Walsh 2004).
- For example, in a study from Canada in which the nurse practitioner role in long-term care was examined, researchers found that advanced practice nurses contribute to effectiveness, high satisfaction with the role and the development of clinical activities (Stolee et al. 2006).

# Access to nursing, care and treatment must be improved

- High prevalence of multiple chronic illnesses challenges the knowledge and abilities of healthcare professionals.
- For many patient groups (the vulnerable, the under prioritized, the undiagnosed, those with psychosomatic or mental health problems), the wait for a health assessment and/or treatment is much too long. Today the need for healthcare services is greater than the availability of such services, and this disparity will continue to dramatically increase.
- Psychosomatic and mental health problems are also areas where demand is increasing. One interesting patient group is those with undiagnosed medical illnesses. This group includes patients who from a medical perspective have received good treatment but who nonetheless maintain that they are “still” ill and who have symptoms and complaints that traditional medicine cannot solve.

# Available resources must be more effectively used to meet the increased demand for healthcare services

- The need for home healthcare services is increasing, both with regard to quantity and complexity, and this places greater demands on home care nurses' clinical competence.
- Well-functioning home care services will require that greater attention be placed on nurses' competence and will require sufficient competence from the entire healthcare team as a whole.
- Inadequate access to physicians and clinically competent nurses in home healthcare services results in unnecessary hospital admissions.
- Health promotive and disease preventative work should be supported throughout the healthcare sector. The need to follow-up patients with complex and chronic diseases is increasing, especially for those with mental health problems, addiction, dementia or lifestyle diseases.

# Registered nurses' contribution to a sustainable development of healthcare

- **SDG 1 - No poverty:** Advanced practice nurses improve access to healthcare for at-risk hard to reach populations such as those who live in inner cities as well as those who live in rural and remote communities. Access to health promotion and preventive health services as well as treatment of illness and injury enables people to participate in opportunities for self and paid employment.

# SDG 3 - Good health and wellbeing

- Advanced practice nurses improve access to healthcare for at-risk, hard to reach populations such as those who live in inner cities as well as those who live in rural and remote communities. Access to health promotion and preventive health services as well as treatment of illness and injury enables people to gain or regain their health. In turn, this enables opportunities for their participation in social and economic systems.

## SDG 4 - Quality education

- The opportunity to participate in graduate education is especially important for women who, in many countries, have not had access to higher level education. Advanced practice nurses contribute to the education of other nurses as clinical faculty and preceptors for Schools of Nursing and through education, coaching and mentorship provided to nurses at the point-of care.

# SDG 5 - Gender equality

- APN education and employment opportunities empower women with the knowledge, skills, confidence and capabilities to assume clinical leadership positions within a country's healthcare system. These opportunities enable social and economic security and wellbeing for women thereby reducing gender inequalities.

## SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth

- APN is a satisfying and fulfilling career opportunity for women. It builds on their knowledge and skills as nurses to enable them to apply their advanced knowledge and skills in new and challenging healthcare settings. Advanced practice nurses, in turn, are of benefit to the country's people and communities. Achieving a healthier population is important for economic growth.

# SDG 10 - Reduce inequalities

- Developing APN roles in a country reduces inequalities by improving the social and economic wellbeing and status of women and by improving access to healthcare and the potential for a healthier life to some of the most vulnerable populations within countries.

# SDG 17 - Partnerships for the goals

- APN roles are being implemented in low, middle and high income countries around the world to address country-specific health needs and goals. Within countries, advanced practice nurses are well positioned to develop inter-sectoral partnerships to achieve health, education and economic goals.

# Key messages to policy makers – why investing in advanced clinical competence?

1. Improving health outcomes for disadvantaged, complex, and hard to reach patient populations (e.g., indigenous people, homeless, immigrants, elderly, mentally disabled, at risk children and youth and those living in rural, northern and remote communities) by increasing access to specialized, acute and general primary healthcare services.
2. Reducing the burden of chronic illness by achieving a better balance in the delivery of health promotion and chronic disease prevention services.

*Bryant-Lukosius, D. and Martin-Misener, R. (2017). Advanced Practice Nursing: An Essential Component of Country Level Human Resources for Health ICN Policy Brief. Retrieved from:*  
[https://www.who.int/workforcealliance/knowledge/resources/ICN\\_PolicyBrief6AdvancedPracticeNursing.pdf](https://www.who.int/workforcealliance/knowledge/resources/ICN_PolicyBrief6AdvancedPracticeNursing.pdf).

# Why investing in advanced clinical competence?

- Achieving efficiencies through the appropriate mix of providers, reduced complications, decreased acute care service use and the more appropriate use of community and homecare services that best meet patient needs.
- Improving the quality of healthcare services through the development and uptake of best practices by patients and providers.



# Why investing in advanced clinical competence?

- Improving patient healthcare experiences and satisfaction with care through enhanced healthcare team functioning, continuity of care, care coordination and system navigation.
- Strengthening the nursing profession through increased access to graduate education, leadership and career laddering opportunities.
- Improving the recruitment and retention of nurses through education, coaching and mentorship at the point-of-care.

