

Professional Nursing Practice

Nursing is the protection, promotion, and optimization of health and abilities, prevention of illness and injury, facilitation of healing, alleviation of suffering through the diagnosis and treatment of human response, and advocacy in the care of individuals, families, groups, communities, and populations.

Characteristics of A Profession

1. Systematic Theory and Knowledge Base

Each profession is guided by systematic theory, on which its built knowledge -base is

2. Authority

This authority occurs through education and experience, which give the professional the knowledge and skills to make professional judgments. The client perceives the professional as having the knowledge and expertise to assist the client in meeting some need.

3. Community Sanction

The professional community is responsible for ensuring safe and effective practice within the discipline. Professional and legal regulation of nursing practice as a community sanction occurs through statutes, rules and regulations, definition of practice, and expectations for practitioners.

4. Code of Ethics

A professional abides by a certain code of ethics applicable to the practice area.

Developed within the profession, the code addresses general ethical practice issues.

5. Professional Culture

Professional culture is the formal and informal groups represented in the profession.

Formal groups refer to the organizational systems in which the professional's practice, the educational institutions that provide for basic and continued learning, and the professional associations.

Informal groups are the collegial settings that provide for collaboration, stimulation, and sharing of mutual values.

These informal groups exist within each formal group, providing further professional, collegial inclusiveness.

These groups and the unique culture of nursing are reinforced in the ANA Code of Ethics for Nurses.

