

Component 2: The Culture of Health Care

Unit 6: Nursing Care Processes Lecture 1

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Focus Of This Lecture

- Identify the different roles of the Registered Nurse (RN)
- Identify the responsibility of the RN
- Describe the six levels of health care and what role the RN plays in each level
- Where nurses work

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2

Nursing as a Profession

- Requires an extended education
- Has a theoretical body of knowledge leading to defined competencies
- Provide services
- Maintain autonomy in decision making and practice
- Has a code of ethics for practice
- Works within a Scope of Practice as defined by the Nurse Practice Act of the state in which they practice

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3

Elements of Professional Nursing

- **Autonomy** - a nurse is reasonably independent and self-governing in decision making and practice.
- **Accountability**- a nurse is responsible, professionally and legally, for the type and quality of nursing care provided.

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4

Backbone of the Health Care System

- Registered nurses (RN) comprise the largest group of healthcare workers in the country
- Nurses spend more time providing direct and indirect patient care than all other healthcare providers.
- Nurses are actively engaged at all levels of health care.

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5

What do Nurses Do?

- **Caregiver**
- **Managers of Care**
- **Advocates**
- **Educators**
- **Communicators**

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6

6 Levels of Health Care

1. Preventive
2. Primary
3. Secondary
4. Tertiary
5. Restorative
6. Continuing

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7

Each level of health care

- Creates different requirements and opportunities for the nurse
- Requires the nurse to come with different skills and knowledge
- Requires that the nurse work within the defined scope of practice

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8

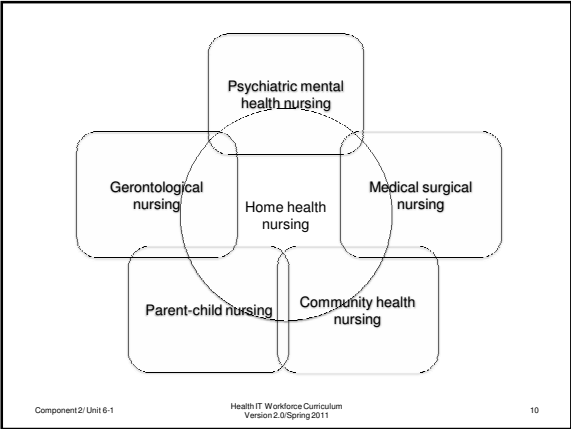
Where do they work?

- Nurses work in a wide variety of settings performing a wide variety of jobs and tasks but generally all they have a common goal:
to serve others, to provide care, offer comfort and/or to improve patient outcomes and services.

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9



Preventive & Primary Level

- Clinics & Physician offices
- Community Health Centers
- Health Departments
- Schools
- Immunization clinics
- Telephone Triage & Health Care Advice lines
- Jails system
- Industrial medicine

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Secondary-Tertiary Level

- Staff nurses – direct patient care
- Acute Care Specialist
- Nurse anesthetist
- Travel Nurses
- On-call agency nurses

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Secondary-Tertiary Level

- Staff development
- Nursing Administration
- Utilization Review
- Risk/Quality Management

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Restorative and Continuing Level of care

- Long term Care facilities
- Chronic care
- Rehabilitation
- Head Trauma
- Disability Services
- Mental Health facilities

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Businesses

- Insurance Companies
- Managed Care
- Marketing and Sales
- Occupational Health and Worker Compensation Programs
- Legal Consultants

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Education and Research

- Patient Education/hospital/clinics
- Schools of Nursing
- Schools of Medicine
- Directors of Education – hospitals and other health care organizations
- Research
- Journalist

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16

Opportunities

- Nursing is a profession that offers many opportunities for persons wanting to have a diverse role in promoting health, providing care and educating others.

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17
