

Board of Nursing – State of Idaho



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PHILOSOPHY OF NURSING PRACTICE

Nursing practice enhances public health, safety and welfare. This is true in traditional settings, such as hospitals, nursing homes and medical clinics. It is equally true in practice settings in which healthcare is not the primary focus, such as public schools, summer camps and religious communities. Within these numerous venues of practice, nurses add value to patient care by advocating, promoting evidence-based practice, care coordination, client education, coaching, and leadership. Nursing practice occurs at the location of the recipient of services regardless of the location of the nurse.

Nursing practice is dynamic. The practice of nursing encompasses many roles, e.g. direct clinical care, education, administration, research, regulation, quality improvement, and case management. Nursing practice may or may not be monetarily compensated. It evolves in response to scientific and technological advances, emerging economic trends and the changing needs of society. The practice of nursing goes beyond traditional settings to include new and emerging interfaces which may occur outside of traditional borders. Therefore, the regulation of nursing practice must be evidence based, adaptable, and committed to removing unnecessary barriers.

Based upon education, licensure, certification, specialized training and environmental context, nursing interventions can be dependent, inter-dependent, or independent. Patient outcomes are enhanced through collaborative relationships, interdisciplinary practice, and patient involvement in their own health care decisions. Nurses may interface directly with individuals receiving care or indirectly through others providing care. Nurses determine the appropriate interface and role responsibilities when providing or coordinating care.

Whether providing or coordinating the provision of care, or engaging in entrepreneurial practice, the nurse's actions must be within defined standards of practice, professional behavior, and reflect sound clinical reasoning and judgment. Application of the Board's decision-making guidelines assists the nurse in evaluating if a proposed course of conduct is ethical and within the individual's scope of nursing practice. This evaluation allows nurses to perform functions for which they have appropriate education, demonstrated competence, and which are consistent with recognized standards for practice. It permits nurses to decide under what circumstances delegation of nursing functions is warranted as well as when a different nurse interface is appropriate.

Adopted 4/30/10

Revised 4/10/15

*The Mission of the Idaho Board of Nursing is to regulate nursing practice and education
for the purpose of safeguarding the public health, safety and welfare.*