

## VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

### CLINICAL SPECIALIST IN PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH CARING FOR CLIENTS ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN POSITION STATEMENT

#### Question:

What are the client age parameters for a Clinical Specialist in Psychiatric Mental Health Nursing practicing in Vermont?

#### Definitions:

Adult – Age 18 and greater as defined by ANCC PMHCNS

Child/Adolescent – Age <18 yrs of age

Primary Client – the individual who is the reason the therapeutic relationship exists

#### Background:

The National Certification Exam (ANCC) has two examination processes which define the scope of the practice of the Psychiatric Clinical Specialist: Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health and Clinical Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Certification (ANCC/COC) has stipulated "that for Psychiatric Clinical Specialists certification, the candidates clinical practicum must be primarily focused either (1) on children and adolescents for those candidates who are seeking certification as a clinical specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric and mental health nursing or (2) adults for those candidates who are seeking certification as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing."

The Scope and Standard of Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nursing Practice 2007 indicates that "APRN-PMH's in adult psychiatric mental health may appropriately work with children as part of a family approach, either in family therapy or adjunctively in the treatment of the child's parents. Similarly, APRN-PMHs working in child and adolescent psychiatric mental health nursing may see adults (parents or guardians) in therapy".

#### Position Statement which Reflects Nurse's Roles and Responsibilities:

The Board agrees that Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists may work with all age groups using a family approach **if the primary client is defined in accordance with their certification.**

The Board further agrees that Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nurse Specialists **endorsed prior to October 2000** in Vermont who have successfully passed a national certifying examination in **either** Adult or Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health may continue to care for all age groups through a waiver, providing they can document that they have received the appropriate education and experience.

#### References/Citations:

*American Nurses Credentialing Center- Certification Candidate Handbook and Reference Materials - Clinical Specialists in Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health (2000)*

*American Nurses Credentialing Center - Certification Candidate Handbook Clinical Specialist in Child/Adolescent Psychiatric/Mental Health. (2000)*

*American Nurses Association - Scope and Standards of Psychiatric Mental Health- Clinical Nursing Practice (2007)*

State of Vermont - Administrative Rules - Chapter 4, Nursing Board Rules VIII, II (A) defines the educational requirements of an APRN as one certified by a national certifying organization which is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Nursing and that certifying organization shall have developed standards and scope of practice statements for the nurse in advanced practice. (Chapter 4 Rule VIII B (1)).

Date of Initial acceptance: **September 2000**

Revised: November 2010

Revised (Date)

Revised (Date)

Reviewed (Date)

**This opinion is subject to change as changes in nursing practice occur.**