

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING

THE ROLE OF THE ADULT AND FAMILY NURSE PRACTITIONERS WORKING IN ACUTE CARE FACILITIES POSITION STATEMENT

General Information:

Nurse Practitioners who are authorized to practice in the State of Vermont because of specialized education and experience are endorsed to perform acts of medical diagnosis and to prescribe medical, therapeutic or corrective measures under Administrative Rules adopted by the Board §1572(4).

Nurse practitioners may practice in a wide range of health care settings.

The focus of education and practice for Adult Nurse Practitioner (ANP) and Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is on health promotion and disease prevention and on the development of treatment plans for acute and chronic diseases.

The focus of education and practice for the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) is on advanced skills in clinical practice to clients with acute conditions.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC), recognized by the Board of Nursing, provides an examination for certification for Nurse Practitioners which delineates separate and distinct content for the ACNP compared to the Adult and Family Nurse Practitioners.

Adult and Family Nurse Practitioners are not qualified to take the certification examination for Acute Care Nurse Practitioners solely on their education and practice as Adult and Family Nurse Practitioners.

POSITION STATEMENT:

The Board of Nursing supports Adult and Family Nurse Practitioners working in acute care settings in their role for which they were educated and working in an expanded role as reflected in their practice guidelines with added education and experience; however if the role encompasses the entire scope of practice of an Acute Care Nurse Practitioner it is the Board's position that education and certification as Acute Care Nurse Practitioner is essential.

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: December 2004