

Forensic Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice

Pre-course work

Assessment

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse collects pertinent data and information relative to the patient's health, death, or situation.
- Competencies
 - Collects pertinent data to include physical and behavioral findings.
 - Recognizes the impact of his/her own personal attitudes, values and beliefs on the assessment process.
 - Uses evidence based assessment techniques, instruments, tools, available data, information, and knowledge relevant to the situation to identify patterns and variance.
 - Recognizes the patient as the authority of his/her health by honoring preferences.

Diagnosis

(Forensic nursing: scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse analyzes assessment data to determine actual or potential diagnoses, problems, and issues.
- Competencies
 - Identifies clinical findings while recognizing normal and abnormal developmental and physical variations of the patient.
 - Verifies the diagnoses, problems, and issues with the individual, family, group, community, population, and interprofessional colleagues.
 - Collaboratively assists within the healthcare team in the formulation of a differential diagnosis based on the assessment, history, physical examination, and diagnostic test results.

Outcomes identification

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse identifies expected outcomes for a plan individualized to the patient or the situation.
- Competencies
 - Formulate culturally sensitive, developmentally appropriate expected outcomes derived from assessments, patient preferences, and diagnoses.
 - Identify expected outcomes that incorporate cost and clinical effectiveness, best practices, and reflect trauma-informed patient care.
 - Modify expected outcomes based on the evaluation of the status of the patient and situation.

Planning

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse develops a plan that prescribes strategies to attain expected, measurable outcomes.
- Competencies
 - Advocates for responsible and appropriate use of interventions to minimize unwarranted or unwanted treatment and/or patient suffering.
 - Develops a plan that reflects compliance with current statutes, rules and regulations, and standards.
 - Contributes to the design and development of interprofessional processes to address the identified diagnoses, problems, or issues.

Implementation

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse implements the identified plan.
- Competencies
 - Demonstrates caring behaviors to develop therapeutic relationships.
 - Serves as a consultant to provide additional insight and potential solutions.
 - Uses systems, organizations, and community resources to lead effective change and implement the plan.

Coordination of care

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse coordinates care delivery.
- Competencies
 - Assists the patient and/or family to identify options for care.
 - Manages the patient's care to reach mutually agreed-upon outcomes.
 - Communicates with the patient, the interprofessional team, and community-based resources to effect safe transitions and continuity of care.

Health Teaching and Promotion

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse employs strategies to promote health and a safe environment.
- Competencies
 - Provides anticipatory guidance to patients to promote health and prevent or reduce the risk of negative health outcomes, violence, trauma, and related deaths across the life span.
 - Uses feedback and evaluations from the patient to determine the effectiveness of the employed strategies.
 - Provides opportunities for the patient to identify needed healthcare promotion, disease prevention, and self-management topics.

Evaluation

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse evaluates progress toward attainment of goals and outcomes.
- Competencies
 - Collaborates in the evaluation process with the patient and others involved in the care or situation.
 - Uses ongoing assessment data to revise the diagnoses, outcomes, plan, and implementation strategies.
 - Documents the results of the evaluation.

Standards of Professional Performance

Forensic Nursing 2nd Edition
Scope and Standards of Practice

Ethics

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse practices ethically.
- Competencies
 - Advocate for patients' rights to informed decision-making and self-determination.
 - Maintain therapeutic relationships and professional boundaries.
 - Demonstrate commitment to self-reflection and self-care.

Culturally Congruent practice

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse practices in a manner that is congruent with cultural diversity and inclusion principles.
- Competencies
 - Advances organizational policies, programs, services, and practice that reflect respect, equity, and values for diversity and inclusion.
 - Evaluates tools, instruments, and services provided to culturally diverse populations.
 - Leads interprofessional teams to identify the cultural and language needs of the patient and populations served.

Communication

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse communicates effectively in all areas of practice.
- Competencies
 - Convey accurate information.
 - Demonstrate continuous improvement of communication skills
 - Assess communication ability, health literacy, resources, and preferences of healthcare patients to inform the interprofessional team and others.

Collaboration

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse collaborates with the patient and other key stakeholders in the conduct of nursing practice.
- Competencies
 - Clearly articulate the forensic nurse's role and responsibilities within the team and to the patient.
 - Exhibit dignity and respect when interacting with others and giving and receiving feedback.
 - Partner with the patient, family, and key stakeholders to advocate for and effect change, leading to positive outcomes and quality care.

Leadership

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse leads within the professional practice setting, the forensic nursing specialty, and nursing profession.
- Competencies
 - Model expert practice to interprofessional team members and patients.
 - Mentor colleagues for the advancement of forensic nursing practice and the profession to enhance safe, quality health care.
 - Contribute to the establishment of an environment that supports and maintains respect, trust and dignity.

Education

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse seeks knowledge and competence that reflects current forensic nursing practice and promotes futuristic thinking.
- Competencies
 - Demonstrate a commitment to lifelong learning through self-reflection and inquiry for learning and personal growth.
 - Share education findings , experiences, and ideas with peers.
 - Facilitate a work environment that supports the ongoing education of healthcare professionals.

Evidence Based Practice and research

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse integrates evidence and research findings into practice.
- Competencies
 - Uses current evidence-based knowledge, including research findings, to guide practice.
 - Identifies questions in the healthcare setting and practice that can be answered by forensic nursing research.
 - Uses critical thinking skills to connect theory and research to practice.

Quality of practice

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse contributes to quality nursing practice.
- Competencies
 - Participates in quality improvement initiatives.
 - Encourages professional or specialty certification.
 - Uses data and information in system-level decision making.

Professional practice evaluation

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse evaluates one's own and others nursing practice.
- Competencies
 - Provides peers and others with formal and informal constructive feedback regarding their practice or role performance.
 - Adheres to the guidance regarding professional practice as specified in Nursing: Scope and standards of Practice and Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements. (ANA, 2015ab)
 - Seeks formal and informal feedback from healthcare patients, peers, colleagues, supervisors, and others regarding his or her practice.

Resource Utilization

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse utilizes appropriate resources to plan, provide, and sustain evidence-based and research-informed nursing services that are safe, effective and fiscally responsible.
- Competencies
 - Advocates for resources that support and enhance forensic nursing practice.
 - Assumes complex and advanced leadership roles to initiate and guide change.
 - Engages organizational and community resources to formulate and implement interprofessional plans.

Environmental health

(Forensic nursing: Scope and standards of practice, 2nd ed.)

- The forensic nurse practices in an environmentally safe and health manner.
- Competencies
 - Promote a safe and healthy workplace and professional practice environment.
 - Incorporate technologies to promote safe practice environments.
 - Communicate information about environmental health risks and exposure reduction strategies.