

The Advance Practice Nurse in the Emergency Room Setting

Position Statement

The Mississippi Board of Nursing is a consumer protection agency with the authority to regulate the practice of nursing provided for by Mississippi Code of 1972, Annotated, Title 73, Chapter 15.

A position statement is a scope of practice determination made by the Board, as to whether performance of an action by a licensed nurse is within acceptable standards. Position statements are administrative and educational tools that can be used to assist providers, licensed nurses, and other interested parties in scope of practice determinations. Position statements of the Mississippi Board of Nursing are formulated in response to the Board's legally mandated charge to protect the public through safe nursing practice.

Background

Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) are practicing in Emergency Departments (EDs) across the state. Some are in fast track clinics attached to the ED or are practicing solo in a small ED. Many primary care nurse practitioners are well prepared to care for the majority of patients with non-emergent problems who visit the ED. Many are fulfilling a vital role in the delivery of non-urgent, urgent, and emergency care (McGee & Kaplan, 2007). Guidelines for the APRN in the ED need to be clearly delineated so as to continue to provide the citizens of Mississippi with the highest level of care possible. The American College of Emergency physicians believe that NPs need certification in emergency care (2004). The Emergency Nurses Association has developed the Competencies for Nurse Practitioners in Emergency Care (2010).

Scope of Practice

It is within the scope of practice for the Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) to provide primary care services in a clinic that is part of an ED i.e., Fast Track, seeing non-emergent problems. It is not within the scope of practice for a FNP to provide services in the trauma area of the ED without additional education. Nurse practitioners providing care have recognized core competencies but none are for emergency care (Corker & Kellepourey, 2008). However, a FNP who has additional education and training in a telemedicine program or a series of courses equivalent to such program and approved by the Board, can work in an ED. The courses would include: ATLS (Advance Trauma Life Support), ACLS (Advanced Cardiac Life Support), and PALS (Pediatric Advance Life Support), emergency care of the obstetric patient, emergency care of the pediatric patient, orthopedic trauma, emergency cardiac, life-threatening injury care, toxicology and psychiatric emergency. The collaborating physician should also have similar preparation for the ED. The Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) has been prepared to practice in a population of patients with complex acute, critical and chronic health conditions and includes patients with rapidly changing conditions. The Acute Care Nurse Practitioner (ACNP) must be certified for adults **and** children to provide services in the trauma area of the ED. The APRN: (FNP, ACNP, PNP [Pediatric Nurse Practitioner - pediatric patients only]), ANP (Adult Nurse Practitioner - adult patients only), who completes the additional training for the treatment

of emergent conditions may practice solo providing there is an appropriate on -call collaborative physician. The additional training and the collaborating physician must be Board approved.

Management

The APRN must be nationally certified, licensed by the board including approval of the collaborating physician and site(s) and must have successfully completed the courses approved by the board to provide emergency care to the aforementioned populations.

Continuing Education

The courses for care of the patient with emergent problems can be counted as part of the required CE for renewal as an APRN in Mississippi. All APRNs are required to have 40 CE in their practice/specialty area for renewal every 2 years.

Sources

1. Statement on national certification recognized by the Mississippi Board of Nursing
Original: 04/1998
2. Statement on state of Mississippi requirements for national certification
Original: 01/2002
3. Statement on areas of national certification the Board recognizes
Original: 05/1998
4. Statement on requirements for nurse practitioners to obtain national certification in an advanced role and specialty
Original: 01/2002
5. Statement on parameter of a nurse practitioner practicing in a specialty area
Original: 01/1995
6. Statement on scope of practice
Original: 05/ 1998
7. Statement on nurse practitioners staffing emergency rooms alone
Original: 12/2000

History

Approved: 6/8/2012