



Professional Nursing Associations Creating &/or Revising Professional Scope and Standards

Guidelines for Addressing Issues Related to Care of Older Adults

Corresponds to American Nurses Association document,
Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, Second Edition 2010

Overview

In 2003, the American Nurses Association (ANA) Congress on Nursing Practice endorsed that professional nursing associations seeking to develop new Scopes and Standards or to revise existing Scopes and Standards through the ANA Congress of Nursing Practice specifically address issues related to care of older adults¹.

These Guidelines were first developed in 2005 to assist professional nursing associations to address issues of care of older adults. These Guidelines were approved by the American Nurses Association (ANA), American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC) and the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, and endorsed by professional nursing associations. These guidelines were reviewed and updated when ANA revised the Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice in 2010.

The Hartford Institute, through its ongoing specialty nursing initiative, REASN² continues to work with specialty nursing associations to incorporate language about care of older adults into association Scope and Standards documents and recommends use of these guidelines in the revision process.

The Guidelines propose approaches and/or language related to care of older adults and their families/caregivers for professional nursing associations to consider in creating and/or revising Scopes and Standards. It is the intent of the Hartford Institute to present a range of suggestions to choose from as associations considers where language about care of older adults will be most effective and appropriate. The Hartford Institute proposes geriatric resources for Associations to use when revising their Scopes and Standards and offers Expert Consultation to professional associations to:

1. Identify sources for statistics and best practices related to care of older adults for each specialty
2. Customize the Guidelines to fit an association's Scopes and Standards
3. Review drafts of Scopes and Standards in relationship to care of older adults

Inquiries for Expert Consultation should be addressed to Jessica Esterson, Director, Specialty Associations, The Hartford Institute (Jessica.esterson@nyu.edu; 212-998-9001)

¹ Typically used to denote people 65 years of age and over

² REASN, (Resourcefully Enhancing Aging in Specialty Nursing), is a project of the Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing, NYU College of Nursing that seeks a comprehensive response among nursing specialties to support evidence-based best practices in care of older adults in hospitals, home care, and institutional long-term care settings.
www.ConsultGeriRN.org

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SCOPES and STANDARDS: INTRODUCTION OR FORWARD

Many Scopes and Standards have an Introduction that addresses contemporary perspective, issues and trends, and changes in the role and/or care delivery setting. In this section, where applicable, it would be appropriate to indicate that the specialty acknowledges and embraces the fact that older adults represent the predominant population served by the specialty.

SCOPES and STANDARDS: SCOPE OF PRACTICE

All Scopes and Standards have a section on Scope of Practice. Scope of Practice language, where applicable, should reflect that older adults represent either the primary or predominant population served or a unique population served by the specialty. For example:

Because xx³ diseases (conditions) increase dramatically and/or destabilize with age, older adults constitute a focus of xx nursing care. The management of older adults with this/these diseases and/or conditions requires special skills and knowledge.

The Scope of Practice section should cite statistics as to the percentage of older adults served by the specialty. For example:

xx% of the patients served by xx specialty nurses are older adults and their families

Good sources for these data are:

Administration on Aging, http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Aging_Statistics/index.aspx

The Federal Interagency Forum on Aging-Related Statistics,
http://www.agingstats.gov/agingstatsdotnet/Main_Site/Default.aspx

NCUP Nationwide Inpatient Sample (NIS), Agency for Health Research and Quality (AHRQ) <http://hcup.ahrq.gov/HCUPnet.asp>

Hartford Institute Clinical Web site: www.ConsultGerRN.org

The Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE) at the University of Pennsylvania:
<http://www.nursing.upenn.edu/CISA/Pages/HartfordCenterofGeriatricNursingExcellence.aspx>

The Hartford Center of Geriatric Nursing Excellence (HCGNE) at University of Iowa College of Nursing: <http://www.nursing.uiowa.edu/hartford/>

³ where they appear in this document, “xx’s” are “place holders” for each professional association to insert its particular focus, e.g. oncology, cardio/vascular, rehabilitation, hospice, medical surgical

In section(s) defining the diseases or practice categories (vascular, hospice, critical care etc), where applicable, the Scopes and Standards document should cite data to support that older adults are the primary or predominant population or a unique population. For example:

xx nursing care is provided to patients of all ages across the continuum of care from acute care to community care, recognizing that older adults form the predominant or unique patient group. xx% of all patients with (disease, cared for on units etc) are older adults.

In the section(s) describing practice characteristics, where applicable, the Scopes and Standards document could take several approaches to recognize that older adults represent the primary or predominant or unique population of patients served. Possible approaches are:

In the stem preceding specific practice characteristics a sentence or phrase could be added to indicate that all of the practice characteristics are age appropriate, recognizing that adults 65 and over represent the predominant population served by the specialty.

or, a practice characteristic should be included that specifically addresses that older adults are the predominant or unique population served. An example of this is:

Age specific changes-the awareness of the interaction between xx diseases and the physiological and psychosocial changes that typically occur in older persons.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL NURSING PRACTICE

Standards of Practice

Almost all Scopes and Standards have a section on Standards of Care or Professional Nursing Practice. Most Standards of Practice address assessment or data collection, diagnosis, outcome identification, and planning.

Standard(s) addressing Assessment or Data Collection:

Measurement Criteria should reflect that assessment techniques and instruments are comprehensive and appropriate to older adults. For older adults, measurement should include at least one criterion reflecting physiological and psychosocial changes common to older adults. Assessment should be inclusive of older adults' family and/or caregiver, including older adult and caregiver dynamics, decision making process, and potential for elder abuse.

Standard(s) addressing Diagnosis:

Measurement Criteria should reflect the age-relevance of the diagnosis and/or the influence of age on the likelihood of the diagnosis. For example:

The extent of a nurse's diagnostic exploration for a specific condition is informed by the potential benefits of treatment, especially for adults of advanced old age.

Standard(s) addressing Outcomes Identification:

Measurement Criteria should reflect that expected outcomes (including health and wellness) are appropriate for older people and their families and/or caregivers, and applicable to transitions across settings and organizational context.

Standard(s) addressing Planning:

Measurement Criteria should reflect that expected outcomes are individualized and take into account age-related, culturally sensitive practices and preferences, and age-appropriate interventions for older adults.

Measurement Criteria for planning should reflect the complexity of coordination of care for older adults and their families and/or caregivers. Outcomes should be inclusive of family and/or caregiver need for support and education, reflective of knowledge of values and generational beliefs and preferences, and applicable to transitions across settings and organizational context.

Standard(s) addressing Implementation, including Coordination of Care, Health Teaching and Health Promotion, Consultation, and Prescriptive Authority and Treatment

Measurement Criteria for Coordination of Care: should address transitions among hospital, home care and nursing home, with focus on medication reconciliation and assuring optimum function.

Measurement Criteria for Health Teaching and Health Promotion: should reflect best practices in teaching of older adults and their families related to the specialty.

Measurement Criteria for Consultation: should take into considerations opportunities for the APRN to serve as resource for their specialty for interdisciplinary team members and community organizations related to care of older adults

Measurement Criteria for Prescriptive Authority and Treatment: should reflect knowledge of Medicare regulations, and take into consideration costs of medications for older adults

Standard(s) addressing Evaluation

Measurement Criteria should reflect evidence based outcomes relevant to care of older adults in the specialty. Resources include the American Association of Colleges of Nursing (AACN), www.aacn.nche.edu/ and the American Geriatrics Society, www.americangeriatrics.org/.

Standards of Professional Performance

All Scopes and Standards have a section on Professional Performance.

Standard(s) addressing Education

Measurement Criteria should reflect evidence of initial and ongoing knowledge and competence in care of older adults in the specialty

Standard(s) addressing Evidence-based practice and research

Measurement Criteria should reflect evidence based practice and research related to care of older adults

Standard(s) addressing Quality of Practice:

Measurement Criteria should reflect that symptom management addresses symptoms and syndromes common to older adults

Standard(s) addressing Leadership

Measurement Criteria should reflect leadership related to promoting the well being of older adults across settings

Standard(s) addressing Collaboration

Measurement Criteria should reflect ability to collaborate with consumers, families and others to promote the well being of older adults across settings

Standard(s) addressing Professional Practice Evaluation

Measurement Criteria should reflect ability to evaluate her and his own nursing practice as it relates to care of older adults

Standard(s) addressing Resource Utilization

Measurement Criteria should reflect utilization of resources specific to the care of older adults

GUIDELINES RELATED TO SCOPES AND STANDARDS FOR ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

This section of the Guidelines is directed at professional associations that have specific Scopes and Standards for Advanced Practice Nursing

STANDARDS OF CARE ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

Standard(s) addressing Outcome Identification

Measurement Criteria should reflect that expected outcomes often differ in older adults as compared to outcomes found among younger individuals.

Standard(s) addressing Planning

Measurement Criteria at least one criteria should reflect the need for knowledge of physiological and psychosocial changes common to older adults

Standard(s) addressing Case Management and/or Coordination of Care,

Measurement Criteria should reflect consideration of the complexity of coordination of care for older adults and their families and/or caregivers

Standard(s) addressing Health Promotion, Health Maintenance, and Health Teaching

Measurement Criteria should reflect the use of geriatric best practices as a basis for health promotion, maintenance and teaching related to older adults and families and/or caregivers

Measurement Criteria should reflect that expected outcomes and individualize and take into account age-related, culturally sensitive practices and preference, and age-appropriate interventions

Standard(s) addressing Prescriptive Authority and Treatment

Measurement Criteria should reflect the impact of physiological changes, pharmacodynamics, and medication adherence common to older adults on medication management

Standard(s) addressing Referrals

Measurement Criteria should reflect that referrals specifically address the needs of older adults and their families and/or caregivers

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE ADVANCED PRACTICE NURSING

Standard(s) addressing Quality of Care

Measurement Criteria should include at least one criterion that addresses older adults. For example:

Advanced practice xx nurses base their evaluation on current knowledge, practice and research of changes common to older adults.