OPHA Nursing Section  
Spring meeting – May 12, 2022  
Luncheon Notes

Ruby Jason, MSN, RN, NEA-BC, Executive Director, OSBN  
Oregon Nurse Practice Act

For those of us who have left the bedside, we know our knowledge and skills can help far reaching groups besides those in the hospital.

**Legal nursing requirements** – the practice of nursing related to what has been expected to do in their job. Nursing practice is whatever your employer requires you to do and implement the directives of providers (MD, NPs, etc). This is not what nursing is.

Standing orders do not absolve the nurse of legal requirements of safety, scope of practice and how it is defined.

**The Practice of Nursing – perspective on what the law says.**

My practice today is to educate you about the practice of nursing and use all my skills to do this.

The legal practice of nursing is what you take with you place to place and does not change.

All the tasks associated with nursing (assessment, vital signs, IVs, aortic balloon pumps, etc.) are not considered the practice of nursing and none are listed in the practice act. You may be certified in a specialty area, but all are licensed the same as nurses across the state.

**What sets nursing apart from other professions.**

If it is not written in statues or rule, the public body has no jurisdiction. The public body is independent of any other public body if the public body stays within its statutory boundaries and does not overlap or superseded those statues and rules of another public body.

**Practice is authorized under law and assigned to specific public body (the Board) to regulate.**

Market participants must adhere to the statues and rules determined by the public body as defined by the state legislature. The purpose of the laws is designed to protect the public. State certified that a licensee meets the minimum level of safety as a nurse. It is up to you, to say to yourself, to keep abreast of my particular specialty in public health. How are you maintaining your competency and scope of practice?

Scope of practice is your continual growth in your practice. Your scope grows as you grow per the nurse practice act. You are accountable for knowing you can practice safely in those particular environments.

**What does the practice act identify as practice?**

**Comprehensive assessment** – What assessment is needed for each situation, environment, population, etc. Development of a plan of care to **identify risks and goals regarding your client**, be that client an individual, a group, a community, nurses who make up a nursing unit, policies, etc.

**A plan to mitigate risks and obtain achievable goals during the encounter.** That encounter may be a single visit, a procedure, a day, length of employment, ongoing over time.

Prior to the nurse taking on the assignment under their license the nurse must verify that they have the knowledge, ability, skills, competencies, and resources to deliver safe client/patient care. Are you safe?

Numbers and geography of patients are not a guarantee of patient safety. The nurse must individually determine if the assignment is safe based on their assessment of their clients.

**New Oregon Definition of Nursing as of 1/1/2022**

All nursing is equal to every other kind of nursing…

“Practice of nursing” means autonomous and collaborative care of persons of all ages, families, groups and communities, sick and well, and in all settings to promote health and safety, including prevention and treatment of illness and management of changes throughout a person’s life.

Modeled after the International Council of Nurses. (120 countries) Tension is where does nursing make its largest contribution – acute care, health settings, communities. Majority of countries belonging to the ICN nurses are in their communities. Western focus is documentation of tasks for reimbursements.

Intended to move away from the focus on acute care and nursing tasks (tasks are more about what the employer wants)

Addresses all the different avenues a nursing career can take.

Perception of many that nursing consists of tasks commonly associated with nursing…meds, IVs, pumps, I/O, orders by providers with legal diagnostic and treatment abilities.

There are no tasks listed in the practice act.

The practice act simply states what nursing must do to obtain and maintain under their license.

**What environment is being created for safe practice for nurse and for recipients of nursing practice?**

You are accountable for taking an assignment even if not safe. Employer may fire nurse if the assignment is not taken. Nursing management is critical for saying to the organization that safe practice is our priority. Nurses are not a cost center, but a revenue generator.

Need to start seeing the nurse, not as a commodity, but as the reason that clients come for care either at hospital, clinic, or community health.

What is being heard from other states? Idaho has adopted the ICN model. More and more states are seeing through boards of nursing and nurses, that it is no longer just follow a list of orders or visits and it is more about what contribution nursing gives. **Until the industry itself recognizes nursing as revenue generator not as a cost center, things will not change. The industry has to change.**

Can nursing make a correlation to the health of a community to mitigate risks and support the health of a community. The comprehensive assessment, develop a plan, mitigate risks….

What do you charge for? The assessment and plan of care is critical, not the task.

**OPHA Nursing Section: Leadership Award**

Kathy Cooley – presented Renee’ Menkens, RN, MS, CHWC, the OPHA Nursing Leadership Award.

**OPHA Opportunities**

Angel Harris discussed opportunities for those who are involved or interested in OPHA sections, specifically the nursing section, and committees. She was also recognized for receipt of the Daisy Award from her workplace.

Submitted by,

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