PRIMARY CARE VERSUS ACUTE CARE NURSE PRACTITIONER SCOPE OF PRACTICE: DOES THE DIFFERENCE MATTER?
JOHN D. GONZALEZ DNP, ANP-BC, ACNP-BC

OBJECTIVE AND FINANCIAL DISCLOSURES

Objectives
At the completion of the session that attendees will be able to:
- Differentiate between the scope of practice of a primary care and acute care nurse practitioner.
- Discuss how to respond to scope of practice driven questions.
- Examine national advanced practice nursing policy and its impact on NP scope of practice.
- I have no financial disclosures.
THREE PILLARS OF SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Education
- Certification
- Licensure

PROFESSIONAL CHALLENGES OF SCOPE OF PRACTICE

- Nurse Practitioners are trained for a population focus
- Nurse Practitioners have a hard time understanding scope of practice
- Patients do not understand the different NP roles or SOP
- Employers do not understand the different NP roles or SOP

STATE & NATIONAL TRENDS IN ACUTE CARE

- Ohio: State Attorney General
- Oregon: JACOH complaint filed against
- Texas: Texas REN
- Precedent in the early 2000s
- Coast Area Hospitals
- Medical City
- UTHSC
- Baptist All States
- Houston Area Hospitals
- PAG Anderson
- Methodist Houston
# PRIMARY AND ACUTE CARE SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITIONS

- **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)**
  - Nurse Practitioners are licensed, independent, primary care providers in ambulatory care settings and long-term care in primary and specialty care providers. They practice within the scope of their respective states and are recognized for their advanced practice in health promotion and disease prevention as well as health and health-related services.
  - Providers hold advanced degrees, usually a master's or doctoral degree in nursing, and have a comprehensive knowledge base in a specific health care discipline. They diagnose and treat acute episodic and chronic illnesses, order, conduct, supervise, and interpret diagnostic and laboratory tests, and prescribe pharmacological agents and non-pharmacological therapies, as well as teaching and counseling patients, among other services.
  - As licensed, independent clinicians, NPs practice autonomously and in coordination with health care professionals and other individuals. They may serve as health care researchers, interdisciplinary consultants, and patient advocates. NPs provide a wide range of health care services to individuals.

Primary and Acute Care Scope of Practice Definitions
APRN Consensus Model 2008

- Standardization in APRN titles, education, and roles
- Helped to align education, certification, licensure, and program accreditation
- Defines SOP as based on the patient's needs, not setting
- Ensures patient safety
- Acute and Primary Care Roles
- Specialty Training
- 4 APRN
- 6 NP population foci

Primary and Acute Care Scope of Practice Definitions

- National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
- Statement on Acute and Primary Care Certified Nurse Practitioner Practice 2012
  - Purpose was to help give guidance on scope of practice
  - Key Points
    - Formal Education & Certification are the basis of SOP
    - Certification must match the educational preparation
    - RN experience does not expand the NP's scope of practice
    - The NP and employer have joint responsibility for adhering to scope of practice
    - The Acute care NP is educated to provide restorative care that is characterized by rapidly changing clinical conditions. The Acute care NP provides care for patients with unstable, chronic, complex acute and critical conditions.

Primary and Acute Care Scope of Practice Definitions

- American Association of Critical Care Nurses
- Define the scope of practice of the Acute Care Nurse Practitioner
- AACN Scope and Standards for Acute Care Nurse Practitioner Practice 2012
  - Key Points
    - The purpose of the ACNP is to provide advanced nursing care across the continuum of health care services to meet the specialized physiologic and psychological needs of patients with acute, critical, and/or complex chronic health conditions. This care is continuous and comprehensive and may be provided in any setting where the patient may be found.
    - The role of the ACNP is the provision of restorative, curative, rehabilitative, palliative, and/or supportive care as determined by the patient's needs.
    - The population focus includes patients with acute, critical, and/or complex chronic diseases who may be physiologically unstable, technologically dependent, have a rapidly changing condition, or are highly vulnerable for complications.
    - SOP is based on the patient's needs.

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IS THE PRIMARY CARE NP EDUCATION REALLY THAT DIFFERENT FROM THE ACUTE CARE NP EDUCATION?

## COMPARISON OF NONPF NURSE PRACTITIONER COMPETENCIES

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Family Nurse Practitioner NONPF Competencies 2013</th>
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<tr>
<td>Definition of Role</td>
<td>The graduate of an FNP program is prepared to care for individuals and families across the lifespan. The FNP role includes preventative healthcare, as well as the assessment, diagnosis and treatment of acute and chronic illness and preventative health care for individuals and families. Family nurse practitioners demonstrate a commitment to family-centered care and understand the relevance of the family's identified community to the delivery of family-centered care.</td>
<td>The student is prepared to provide primary care services to the non-gerontology age spectrum of individuals, including those with chronic diseases, pediatrics, and geriatrics. The student is prepared to provide primary care services to the non-gerontology age spectrum of individuals, including those with chronic diseases, pediatrics, and geriatrics. The student is prepared to provide primary care services to the non-gerontology age spectrum of individuals, including those with chronic diseases, pediatrics, and geriatrics.</td>
<td>The AGNP provides care to adults and older adults with acute, critical, and complex physical and mental illnesses across the entire age spectrum, including young adults (including late adolescents), adults, and older adults (including frail older adults). The scope of practice is based on the patient's needs.</td>
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<td>Health Care Delivery</td>
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<td>Ethics</td>
<td>Debates to the Core NP competencies that all NPs should meet.</td>
<td>Advocates for the patient’s and family’s rights regarding health care decision-making taking into account ethical and legal standards.</td>
<td>Facilitates patient and family decision-making regarding complex acute, critical and chronic illness treatments.</td>
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<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Manages common acute and chronic physical and mental conditions, including acute exacerbations and injuries across the lifespan to minimize the development of complications, and promote functions and quality of living.</td>
<td>Independently manages common acute, critical, and chronic conditions across all ages.</td>
<td>Independently manages complex acute, critical, and chronic conditions in adult and older adult patients at risk for urgent and emergent conditions, using both physiologically and technologically derived data to manage physiologic instability and risk for potential life-threatening conditions.</td>
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<td>Independent Practice</td>
<td>Performs Primary Care Procedures: • Suturing • Lesion Removal • I&amp;D • Catheterization • Microscopy • Gynecologic procedures</td>
<td>Safely performs procedures common to adult and geriatric primary care clinical practice. • Wound debridement • Suturing • Biopsy • Pap Smears • Joint aspirations and aspirations</td>
<td>Performs diagnostic and therapeutic interventions including but not limited to: • Endotracheal intubation • Respiratory support • Hemodynamic monitoring, line and tube insertion • Lumbar puncture • Wound debridement and closure</td>
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*All information in this chart is taken directly from the sources below. This is not the presenter’s own work. Consider the above chart a direct quote from the sources below.*

PRIMARY AND ACUTE CARE CURRICULUM COMPARISON

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON SAMPLE CURRICULUM

MSN Core Courses
- NURS 5321 Exploration Science and Theories for Nursing
- NURS 5366 Principles of Research in Nursing
- NURS 5367 Evidenced-Based Practice

NP Course Courses
- NURS 5314 Advanced Pathophysiology
- NURS 5334 Advanced Pharmacology
- NURS 5418 or NURS 5316 Advanced Health Assessment
- NURS 5358 Role of the Nurse in Advanced Practice

Once they have completed the above the NP students move forward with course work specific to their population focus: FNP, AGPCNP, AGACNP.

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<td>NURS 5463 AG Acute Care</td>
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Course Description:
- This course focuses on advanced concepts and knowledge for nurse practitioner primary care management of commonly occurring conditions seen in primary care patients across the life span.
- Focuses on a collaborative, interdisciplinary approach in the management of acutely ill, physiologically unstable adult, and gerontology patients with complex multisystem dysfunction.
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**Sample Content**

### Cardiac
- Angina
- Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Heart Failure
- Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Valvular Heart Disease
- Peripheral Arterial Disease
- Raynaud’s
- Carotid Artery Disease

### Effect of aging on the cardiovascular system
- Coronary Artery Disease
- Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Atrial Fibrillation
- Heart Failure
- Cardiomyopathies

### Acute Coronary Syndrome
- Heart Failure
- inpatient management, including LVAD Management
- Hypertensive Crisis
- Acute Valvular Heart Disease - secondary to trauma/injury
- Cardiac Tamponade
- Dissecting Aortic Aneurysm

### Atrial Fibrillation
- inpatient management of RVR
- Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation
- Targeted Temperature Therapy

### Post-operative care of the cardiovascular patient
- Pericarditis
- Women and Heart Disease
- Sudden Death
- Carotid Artery Stenosis
- Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm

### Respiratory
- COPD
- Asthma
- Bronchitis
- Cough
- Community Acquired Pneumonia
- RSV
- Bronchiolitis

### COPD
- Asthma
- Cough
- Dyspnea
- Hemoptysis
- Upper Respiratory Infections
- Community Acquired Pneumonia
- Bronchiectasis
- Pulmonary Nodule
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea

### COPD Exacerbations - hospital management
- Acute Respiratory Failure
- Asthma Exacerbation - hospital management
- Pleural Effusion
- Acute Respiratory Distress Syndrome
- Sarcoidosis
- Pulmonary Hypertension
- Pulmonary Fibrosis
- Obstructive Sleep Apnea - acute care considerations

### Perioperative Considerations
- IV Antibiotics
- IV Antifungal agents
- IV Antiviral Agents
- Preoperative antibiotic prophylaxis
- Multidrug resistance organism: MRSA, VRE, ESBL, Amp C- 
- Enteric gram-negative rod infections
- Fever in the hospitalized patient
- Bacteremia
- Fungemia
- Catheter Related Blood Stream Infections
- Hospital care of Community Acquired Pneumonia
- Healthcare associated Pneumonia
- Hospital acquired pneumonia
- Ventilator acquired pneumonia
### THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT ARLINGTON COURSE SAMPLE

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### Sample Content

**Infectious Disease**
- Cellulitis
- Fifth Disease
- Roseola
- Chicken pox
- Shingles
- Osteomyelitis
- Sickle Cell
- Endocarditis
- Pertussis

**Infectious Disease**
- Meningitis
- SARS
- West Nile Encephalitis
- Cat Scratch Disease
- Tuberculosis
- Influenza
- Viral Illness in the Elderly
- Clostridium difficile
- Lymphadenopathy
- Fever of Unknown Origin

**Infectious Disease**
- Septic joint
- Measles, mumps
- Sexually transmitted Infections
- Urinary tract infections
- Urinary catheter acquired UTI
- UTI and delirium in the elderly
- Intraabdominal infections
- Meningitis - inpatient management
- Encephalitis - inpatient management

### TEXAS BOARD OF NURSING SCOPE OF PRACTICE DEFINITION

**SOP** is defined as the activities that an individual health care provider performs in the delivery of patient care. Scope of practice reflects the types of patients for whom the advanced practice registered nurse can care; what procedures/activities the advanced practice registered nurse can perform and influences the ability of the advanced practice registered nurse to seek reimbursement for services provided.

Texas BON identified two types of scope of practice:

- **Professional Scope**
  - The professional scope of practice for an APRN is broadly defined by the national professional specialty organization and APRN organization.

- **Individual Scope**
  - The APRN scope shall be in addition to the scope of practice permitted a RN.

### How to determine if **it** is within my scope of practice?

- Texas BON recommends that you answer the following questions:
  - Is it consistent with one's professional scope of practice?
  - Is it consistent with statutory or regulatory laws?
  - Is it consistent with one's education in the role and specialty?
  - Is it consistent with the scope of one's recognized title or does it evolve into another advanced practice title recognized by the board requiring additional formal education and legal recognition?
  - Is it consistent with the standards of nursing practice outlined in board rule 217.11?
  - Is it consistent with evidence-based care?
  - Is it consistent with reasonable and prudent practice?
  - Are you willing to accept accountability and liability for the activity and outcomes?

Texas BON expects that all APRNs practice within their professional and individual scope of practice. It also recognizes that the individual scope of practice may be different from person to person.
CASE SCENARIOS

An RN who has worked in critical care for 10 years goes back to school to become a Family Nurse Practitioner. The RN wants to work in the ICU setting after graduation because she has 10 years of RN experience in this setting.

1. Is this an appropriate position for an FNP? Why or why not?
2. What type of NP is the most appropriate to work in the ICU setting?
3. Does the RN experience in the ICU setting prepare her to be a provider in the ICU setting?
4. If a primary care trained NP wants to work in the ICU setting, what do they need to do to expand their scope of practice?
5. What is Texas BON position on Primary Care Trained NP working in the hospitals?
CASE SCENARIO

- An FNP works for the VA system in one of the primary care clinics. The FNP has a Texas license. Given that the VA has granted independent practice to NPs, how does this NP’s scope of practice change?

CASE SCENARIOS

- After graduation from an FNP program, the FNP is accepted to a family practice residency/fellowship.
- An AGACNP post-graduation, is accepted to a critical care fellowship.
- After 5 years of practice an AGACNP wants to change specialties and is applying for a family practice residency.
- After 10 years of practice, an FNP wants to change specialties and applies to a critical care residency.
- How do residencies/fellowships affect our scope of practice?

CASE SCENARIO

- United HealthCare has posted a position on TNP’s website looking for nurse practitioners to perform H&Ps on stable, elderly, Medicare patients in the home. He/she will not be performing any medical management.
- Is this an appropriate position for a primary care trained NP?
- Is it within scope of Practice of a primary care NP?
- Does this qualify to maintain certification for a primary care NP?
- What about an AGACNP?
- Does this position qualify to maintain the AGACNP certification?
CASE SCENARIO

An interventional radiology group is looking to hire a nurse practitioner to perform invasive procedures using fluoroscopy for hospitalized patients and some outpatients. They are willing to train the right person and will follow the requirements of the medical staff office to assist the NP with getting credentialed to do the procedures. The procedures they will be doing include:

- PICC line insertion
- Central line insertion
- Paracentesis
- Thoracentesis
- Lumbar puncture

Is this position within the scope of practice of a Primary Care NP or an Acute Care NP?

Does this position qualify to maintain a primary care trained NP certification and licensure?

CASE SCENARIOS

A nurse practitioner is working for a hospitalist group.

Based on the concept that Scope of Practice is based on the patient’s needs, which patient is most appropriately cared for by a Primary Care NP or an Acute Care NP?

A 54-year-old male patient admitted 2 days ago with a COPD exacerbation. He requires nebulizers every 6 hours, respiratory rate is 20, O2 sat is 90% on 2 LNC, and he is on prednisone 40 mg daily.

A 65-year-old female one day post total hip replacement, with acute onset of shortness of breath, diaphoresis, a RR of 32, a blood pressure of 80/30 and a pulse of 140.

A 35-year-old male with diabetes mellitus that is uncontrolled, admitted with a diabetic foot wound, found to have osteomyelitis and requires 6 weeks of IV therapy. He does not have any insurance and must stay in the hospital for the duration of his treatment.

CASE SCENARIOS

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Based on the concept that Scope of Practice is based on the patient’s needs, which patient is most appropriately cared for by a Primary Care NP or an Acute Care NP?

A 35-year-old male with diabetes mellitus that is uncontrolled, admitted with a diabetic foot wound, found to have osteomyelitis and require 6 weeks of IV therapy. He does not have any insurance and must stay in the hospital for the duration of his treatment. Two weeks into his therapy, he became altered, cold and clammy, febrile with a temp of 102, RR 30, HR 120, and BP of 90/40.

A 72-year-old female admitted to the hospital with a diagnosis of pyelonephritis, risks are stable and she has begun treatment with daily or twice daily ceftriaxone. Cultures are pending.

A 45-year-old female recovering from a myasthenia crisis, who is in a long-term acute care hospital being weaned from the ventilator but requires ventilator assistance the majority of the day.
CASE SCENARIO

- An FNP is hired by a nephrologist to assist with outpatient dialysis rounds and see some clinic patients as needed in follow up.
  - Is this an appropriate position for an FNP?
  - Is it within scope of practice?
  - Does it qualify to maintain certification?
  - What are the general guidelines about primary care trained NPs working for subspecialty practices?
  - Is this an appropriate position for the AGACNP?

CASE SCENARIO

- An AGACNP colleague tells you she is considering taking a position with a psychiatrist. The psychiatrist wants the NP to help with behavioral management of patients with dementia in nursing homes. This is a psychiatric only practice.
  - Is this an appropriate position for an AGACNP?
  - Is it within scope of practice?
  - Does it qualify to maintain certification?
  - Is this an appropriate position for an FNP?

CASE SCENARIO

- An FNP colleague tells you that he is considering taking a job with an outpatient internal medicine practice which provides total care for HIV patients. The position requires that he take care of some HIV infected patients and do their primary care, and do primary care for Non-HIV infected patients. The position will also include rounding on their patients when they are hospitalized.
  - Is this an appropriate position for an FNP?
  - Is it within scope of practice?
  - Does it qualify to maintain certification?
  - Is this an appropriate position for an AGACNP?
SCOPE OF PRACTICE QUESTIONS

FNP WORKING IN THE EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

- Is it within the FNP's scope of practice to work in the emergency room?
  - NONPF 2013 White Paper
- When is it appropriate for the FNP to work in the main ED?
- I have heard the American Academy of Emergency Nurse Practitioners in collaboration with AANP is offering a new ENP national certification examination. How will this affect my scope of practice as an FNP?
  - The certification requirements are:
    - RN License in US state
    - Current National FNP certification
    - Specialty content/Training one of the following
      - 3,000 hours of ED patient care hours in the last 5 years with 100 hours of continuing education or
      - Completion of an academic emergency care graduate or post graduate NP program or
      - Completion of an approved emergency fellowship.

DUAL CERTIFIED AND LICENSED NURSE PRACTITIONERS

- How does dual certification and licensure affect an NP's scope of practice?
  - FNP-PC with a FNP-AC
  - AGNP with an AGACNP
  - An FNP with an AGACNP
- What requirements does one have to do in order to maintain dual NP certifications and licenses?