

WHAT DO NURSES DO?



The World Health Organization declared 2020 to be the Year of the Nurse and Midwife. However, what nurses do with their hands—measuring vitals, setting up IVs, dispensing medicine—is only half the story. What goes on in their minds when they are providing care?



AN ART

NURSING IS....



A SCIENCE

Nurses often say they feel called to serve as a nurse due to a desire to care for others. They not only treat physical conditions but pride themselves in providing emotional support and solace for patients and families.

Nurses are alert, vigilant and constantly monitoring patient responses in order to identify opportunities to prevent, reduce or eliminate risks and introduce appropriate treatment to facilitate recovery.

NURSING PRACTICE IS PERSON-CENTERED:

- Nurses care for and reassure patients.
- Nurses facilitate communication.
- Nurses educate and advocate for patients.

NURSING PRACTICE IS EVIDENCE-BASED:

- Nurses apply proven medical techniques.
- Nurses make split-second scientific calculations.
- Nurses develop, implement and publish best practices to address health care challenges.

NURSES APPLY CREATIVITY:

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, nurses transformed work environments to keep patients and staff safer.
- During natural disasters, nurses innovate to manage limited supplies and disrupted distribution chains.
- When patients are separated from loved ones, nurses step in to provide friendship, comfort, encouragement and strength.

NURSES SEEK KNOWLEDGE:

- Nurses conduct research and can hold a variety of degrees and certifications, all the way up to a PhD in nursing or Doctorate of Nursing Practice, DNP.
- Nurses collaborate with all disciplines—from public health to criminal justice to policy makers—to improve health care for individuals and communities.

Nurses work in a number of specialties:

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| • Managed care | • Surgical services | • Maternal and child health | • Infection control | • Forensic nursing |
| • Critical care | • School nursing | • Substance use and mental health | • Case management | • Oncology |
| • Home health | • Rural health | • Emergency services, trauma care | • Health informatics | • Long-term care |



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