

Competencies of a Doctor of the Nursing Practice (DNP)  
Revised 7/20/08

The DNP graduate demonstrates expertise in the provision, coordination, and direction of care to patients, including those who present in healthy states and those who present with complex, chronic, and/or co-morbid conditions, across clinical sites and over time. DNP competencies build upon established competencies at the master's degree level and national certification.

DNP graduates:

Provide health promotion, anticipatory guidance, counseling, and disease prevention services to healthy or sick patients in any clinical setting based on age, developmental stage, family history, ethnicity, and individual risk, including genetic profile.

Apply principles of epidemiology, environmental health, and biostatistics to identify population or geographically-based risks to health of specific patients, and take action to reduce their risk.

Formulate diagnostic strategies to deal with ambiguous or incomplete data in developing differential diagnosis for patients that present with new conditions and those with complex illnesses, comorbid conditions, and potential multiple diagnoses with attention to scientific evidence, safety, cost, invasiveness, simplicity, acceptability, adherence, and efficacy in all clinical settings.

Determine the need for emergency evaluation and or inpatient admission and manage/co-manage, and coordinate the care of patients in the emergency, acute and subacute setting.

Identify and select appropriate interventions that incorporate cultural values that meet the needs of specific patients at all levels of acuity in the most appropriate setting.

Establish and utilize a collaborative network of specialists while maintaining primary responsibility for patient care and accept referrals from other health professionals and agencies to provide optimum care.

Manage chronic illness utilizing specialists, other disciplines, community resources, and family, maintaining continuity of care to provide a seamless flow of patient data and continuity of care when the focus of care shifts among office, hospital, home, chronic care facility, or community settings.

Identify gaps in access and or reimbursement that compromise patient's optimal care and apply current knowledge of the organization and financing of health care systems in order to ameliorate negative impact and/or reduce barriers to patient access.

Introduce and guide the process of planning end of life care by facilitating understanding of diagnoses and prognosis, clarifying patient desires and priorities, promoting informed choices through discussion with patient, family and members of the health care team. Utilize the principles of legal and ethical decision-making to identify and analyze dilemmas that arise in patient care, interprofessional relationships, research, and practice management and take action to resolve the issues.

Utilize and synthesize evidence and use informatics tools to extract data from clinical information systems and patient databases in order to perform data mining, and analyze data to generate evidence from practice that improves patient care.