

VERMONT STATE BOARD OF NURSING
CLINICAL SPECIALIST IN PSYCHIATRIC AND MENTAL HEALTH
CARING FOR CLIENTS ACROSS THE LIFE SPAN
POSITION STATEMENT

Introduction:

The Board of Nursing was asked to review the role of the Clinical Specialist in Psychiatric and Mental Health in caring for clients across the life span.

Process:

The Board of Nursing appointed six Advanced Practice Registered Nurses endorsed in various specialties to an Ad Hoc committee to study and make recommendations to the Board regarding appropriate age parameters of clients of Clinical Specialists in Psychiatric/Mental Health. The committee convened two meetings and heard testimony and considered letters from six psychiatric clinical specialists and reviewed surveys, documents and reference material.

Facts considered:

The National Certification Exam (ANCC) has two examination processes which define the scope of the practice of the Psychiatric Clinical Specialist: Clinical Specialist in Adult Psychiatric and Mental Health and Clinical Specialist in Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health.

The American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Certification (ANCC/COC) has stipulated "that for Psychiatric Clinical Specialists certification, the candidates clinical practicum must be primarily focused either (1) on children and adolescents for those candidates who are seeking certification as a clinical specialist in child and adolescent psychiatric and mental health nursing or (2) adults for those candidates who are seeking certification as a clinical specialist in adult psychiatric and mental health nursing."

The Scope and Standard of Psychiatric Mental Health Clinical Nursing Practice 2000 [proposed] indicates that "APRNPMH's in Adult Psychiatric Mental Health may appropriately work with children as part of a family approach, either in family or adjunctively in the treatment of the child's parents".

Chapter 4, Nursing Board Rules VIII, II (A) defines the educational requirements of an APRN as one certified by a national certifying organization which is recognized by the Vermont State Board of Nursing and that certifying organization shall have developed standards and scope of practice statements for the nurse in advanced practice. (Chapter 4 Rule VIII B (1)).

The Board has determined that Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in Pediatrics (PNP) and in Adult Health (ANP) must practice only within the age groups defined by the national certifying examination.

Position Statement:

The Board's opinion is that Clinical Nurse Specialists who practice in Vermont because of their specialized education and experience and who are endorsed to perform acts of medical diagnosis and to prescribe medications, therapy or corrective measure shall care for and treat clients in the age group for which they are certified by an approved national certification exam.

The Board agrees that Psychiatric Clinical Specialists may work with all age groups using a family approach **if the primary client is defined in accordance with their specialty.**

The Board further agrees that Psychiatric Clinical Nurse Specialists **currently endorsed** in Vermont who have successfully passed a national certifying examination in **either** Adult or Child and Adolescent Psychiatric and Mental Health may continue to care for all age groups through a waiver, providing they can document that they have received the appropriate education and experience.

This Position Statement represents the Board's current thinking. Position statements are not legally binding.

Approved: September 2000

References

- American Nurses Credentialing Center- Certification Candidate Handbook and Reference Materials - Clinical Specialists in Adult Psychiatric/Mental Health (2000)*
- American Nurse Certification Eligibility Requirement Change For Advanced Practice Nurses. (Jan/Feb. 2000)
- American Nurses Credentialing Center- Recertification Catalog (1999)*
- American Nurses Credentialing Center - Certification Candidate Handbook Clinical Specialist in Child/Adolescent Psychiatric/Mental Health. (2000)*
- American Nurses Association - Scope and Standards of Psychiatric Mental Health- Clinical Nursing Practice (2000) [proposed]*
- American Psychiatric Nurse Association (April 1997)*
- Paisley, Laura, BSN – "Clarity and Parity: Understanding the Roles of the Advance Practice Psychiatric Nurse" Journal of Issues in Nursing (January 27, 1998) online.*
- Position Statement: Prescriptive authority for Advance practice psychiatric nurses (on-line) (April 1997)*
- Russell Sage College - Psychiatric Clinical Specialists curriculum outline. (1999)*
- Survey of selected state's rules and regulations governing Psychiatric Clinical Specialist practice: (CT., NH., ME., TX , N.Y.)
- Vanderbilt University- Psychiatric Clinical Specialist curriculum outline. (1999)*