Measures have been taken, by the Utah Department of Health, Bureau of Health Promotions, to ensure no conflict of interest in this activity.

School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice

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JUNE 2014

1902 Lina Rogers
First US School Nurse


View online via Google Books
Objectives
In this session, we will:
- Determine Scope of Practice
- Determine purpose and importance of Scope and Standards to School Nurse Practice
- Examine the Standard Statements and their meaning
- Discuss use of Standards in guiding School Nurse evaluation

Scope and Standards of Practice

SCOPE describes the who, what, where, when, why and how of school nursing

STANDARDS, guide our role implementation, interpretation and evaluation

SCOPE (ANA)

ANA, President Daley, speaks at NASN 2011 On Scope of School Nurse Practice
http://www.nursingworld.org/ScopeofPractice
Definition of School Nursing

School nursing is a specialized practice of professional nursing that advances the well-being, academic success and life-long achievement and health of students.

To that end, school nurses facilitate positive student responses to normal development; promote health and safety including a healthy environment; intervene with actual and potential health problems; provide case management services; and actively collaborate with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self advocacy, and learning (NASN, 2010)

SCOPE defined by Roles of the School Nurse

1. Facilitate normal development and positive student response to intervention.
2. Provides leadership in promoting health and safety, including a healthy environment.
3. Provides quality health care and intervenes with actual and potential health problems.
4. Utilizes clinical judgment in providing case management services.
5. Collaborates with others to build student and family capacity for adaptation, self-management, self advocacy and learning.

What does a School Nurse do?

Broken bones  Broken Hearts
Mental Health  Teacher with cancer
Teen Relationships  the cutter
START TRAINING
Death of a student  Grieving
Eating Disorders  Teen Pregnancy
Life choices  sexually transmitted infections
USE CRITICAL THINKING SKILLS EVERY DAY

Committees

physicians
EDUCATE
Hand Washing

COMMUNICATION
Ethics
Disease Outbreak
Local Health Departments
Substance abuse
Cultural Competency
Independence

CARE
Expert
Leader
LOVE WHAT THEY DO
Primary Goal of the School Nurse is to support student learning. This is accomplished by implementing strategies that promote student and staff health and safety.

SCOPE

Roles of the school nurse continuously expanding

The depth and breadth in which individual school nurses engage in the total scope of school nursing practice depend on education, experience, role, work environment, and the population served.

School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 2nd edition

SCOPE is determined by School Nurse to Student Ratio or Acuity?

American Academy of Pediatrics
- One school nurse per every school building

National Association of School Nurses
- 1 school nurse per every 750 students
- 1 school nurse per every 250 students with special health care needs
- 1 school nurse per every 1 student with complex and unpredictable health care needs
ECBP-5 Increase the proportion of elementary, middle, and senior high schools that have a full-time registered school nurse-to-student ratio of at least 1:750.

HTTP://HEALTHYPEOPLE.GOV/2020/TOPICOBJECTIVES2020/OBJECTIVESLIST.ASPX?TOPICID=11

HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/HEALTHYPEOPLE/PROFILES/INDEX.HTML
HTTP://WWW.CDC.GOV/HEALTHYPEOPLE/SHPPS/INDEX.HTML

**Utah (average) School Nurse to Student Ratio**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>2013 Public school student population</th>
<th>61,2551</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total FTE of around 200 school nurses</td>
<td>142</td>
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Utah best overall estimate school nurse to student ratio

1:4314

Disclaimer: this ratio is not equally distributed between districts or charter schools for some districts have ratios as high as 1:6700 and some as low as 1:1000

**SCOPE**

The school nurse is responsible for all students in a given school, district or region.

The school nurse is most likely the only health care provider in the educational setting.

- This does not give the school nurse any authority in performing medical diagnosis.
SCOPE is legally determined by level of professional practice

- Licensed Practical Nurses (LPN) – 1 year of training
  - Licensed to practice under the supervision of a registered nurse or physician
  - Cannot delegate tasks to others.
  - Cannot initiate teaching with students or staff.

- Emergency Medical Technicians - 140-1200 hours
  - Licensed to practice under supervision of a physician or emergency protocols.
  - Limited pediatric training

Neither can make nursing assessments nor practice registered nursing without a license.

Recommended School Nurse Credentials

Leadership
- School nurse supervisors and administrators
- Lead nurses
- Team leaders
- Advanced practice RN
- School nurse consultants

NCSN information found at:
http://www.nasn.org/rolecareer/schoolnursecertification
http://www.nbcsn.org/

Writing your name and credentials

- Highest earned degrees, mandated requirements (i.e., licensure), state designations or requirements, national certifications, awards and honors, other certifications.

Mary B. Smith, BSN, MEd, CNOR
Beth Mattey, MSN, RN, NCSN
Terri Lipman, PhD, CNOR, FAAN

www.wocn.org/resource/resmgr/ana_credentials_for_the_prof.pdf
Standards of School Nurse Practice

- Standards are best used as broad professional expectations that reflect the values and priorities of the discipline (ANA, 2004)
- Are established by a professional organization for specialty practice
- Are an agreed-on level of practice developed to characterize and guide the nurse in achieving Excellence in school nursing practice
- Legal statutes to guide School Nurse Practice
- When tailored to fit a specific area of school nursing, provide a means for evaluation by describing competent levels of practice

Standards of School Nurse Practice

17 Standards divided between Two categories:

- Standards of Practice (6)
- Standards of Professional Performance (11)
Standards of Practice

The first six standards encompass the Nursing Process

1. Assessment
2. Diagnosis
3. Outcomes Identification
4. Planning
5. Implementation
6. Evaluation

Use of standards in developing an evaluation tool

SUMMARY

It is the position of the National Association of School Nurses (NASN) that the registered professional school nurse (hereinafter referred to as the school nurse) should be clinically supervised and evaluated by a registered nurse knowledgeable of the scope and standards of practice for school nursing. The school nurse job description and performance evaluation should be based on the standards of school nursing practice, the standards of professional performance, and related competencies described in the current version of “School Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice” (American Nurses Association [ANA] & National Association of School Nurses [NASN], 2011).

http://www.nasn.org/Portals/0/positions/2013pssupervision.pdf
Standards of Professional Performance

7: Ethics
8: Education
9: Evidence-Based Practice and Research
10: Quality of Practice
11: Communication
12: Leadership
13: Collaboration
14: Professional Practice Evaluation
15: Resource Utilization
16: Environmental Health
17: Program Management

7. Ethics:

The school nurse practices ethically.
- Legal requirement to be an advocate for your students (clients)
- Putting the client and family before oneself or one's employer
- Follows the nursing code of ethics for nurses with interpretive statements for the school nurse (NASN, 2010)
- Care is delivered in a manner that protects client autonomy, dignity, and rights, and confidentiality
- Professional role boundaries, nurse-client relationships are maintained
8. Education:

The school nurse attains knowledge and competency that reflects current nursing practice.

- School nurses have the responsibility for keeping themselves current
- Involve oneself in local, state and national school nursing organizations
- Keep an awareness that you are a medical professional working in an educational setting where student health is not a main priority

9: Evidence-Based Practice and Research:

The school nurse integrates evidence and research findings into practice

“nursing actions are based on sound theory and research”

(Adams, 2009)

Case studies
Expert opinions
Scientifically collected data that has been analyzed

(Adams & McCarthy, 2007)
10: Quality of Practice:
The school nurse contributes to quality of nursing practice.

The school nurse must monitor and critically evaluate the effectiveness of individual nurse practice and the whole of the school health program

This standard is usually coupled with Standard 17: Program Management
11: Communication:
The school nurse communicates effectively in a variety of formats in all areas of nursing practice.
The ability to effectively communicate in the professional setting has been shown to be key to effective school nursing proactive with children, professional staff, and parents.

(Stevenson, 2010)

12: Leadership:
The school nurse demonstrates leadership in the professional practice setting and the profession.

"Control is not leadership; management is not leadership; leadership is leadership. If you seek to lead, invest at least 50% of your time in leading yourself—your own purpose, ethics, principles, motivation, conduct. Invest at least 20% leading those with authority over you and 15% leading your peers."
—Dee Hock, Founder and CEO Emeritus, Visa

Evaluating Leadership (OH)
13: Collaboration:

The school nurse collaborates with the healthcare consumer, the family and others in the conduct of nursing practice.

14: Professional Practice Evaluation:

The school nurse evaluates one’s own nursing practice in relation to professional practice standards and guidelines, relevant statutes, rules and regulations. When there is no formal evaluation tool, use:
- Position description
- District policies
- National, state, or local role statements
- State and federal law
- Evaluation instruments that closely reflect your practice situation found online

Difficulties:
- Work alone
- Supervised by a non-nurse
- School administration assumes that a nurse is a nurse
- Begin practice with little or no orientation

15: Resource Utilization:

The school nurse utilizes appropriate resources to plan and provide nursing services that are safe, effective, and financially responsible.

Cost containment
Efficacy of service
Client safety
16: Environmental Health:
The school nurse practices in an environmentally safe and healthy manner.
What is a healthy school environment?
Air quality, available clean water, allergens, pets in classroom, bees in the playing field,
School nursing is rooted in public health. What comes to mind when you think of public
health in the school setting?
Communicable disease, Immunizations, health screenings, access to care, insurance
Is your school Emotionally healthy? Diverse population?
Are your students protected from outside influences such as drugs and violence?

Evaluating Environmental Health (OH)

17: Program Management:
SCHOOL NURSE MANAGES SCHOOL HEALTH SERVICES
Local School Wellness Policy
Each local educational agency that participates in the National School Lunch Program or other federal Child Nutrition programs is required by Federal law to establish a local school wellness policy for all schools under its jurisdiction.
Is no longer an issue of being at the table, we are in position to lead the discussion at the table

School nurses are on the Front lines of Public health

Are you involved enough in your schools that you could be the next Mary Papus (NY)?

Need for better data collection and analysis

Better data provides evidence of the work we do, it helps policy makers better understand the value we bring to our constituents and clients.

Lina Rogers, our nation’s first school nurse, used data over 100 years ago to make the case for having a nurse in the school

References


Southern Regional Education Board. Curriculum and Faculty Development in Community-Based Care: School Nurses And Nurse Educators Collaborate, 2000. E. Alken, Atlanta, GA.


Reference


