

Chapter 1


Advanced Nursing Practice:

A New Perspective on Nursing Care

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ABSTRACT

Defining advanced practice nursing (APN) is not an easy task, especially in developing countries where regulations are lacking and no nurse or healthcare professional has been recruited to carry out advanced practice activities so far. It is a definition that requires a detailed analysis. Let us first pose the following question: Why is this practice being discussed now, and what is the current context that prompts us to reflect on it? Healthcare systems worldwide are under significant pressure and undergoing radical changes to meet the growing health needs of populations. This population is currently experiencing aging, an increase in chronic disease rates, and a shortage of human resources. Developing countries must draw inspiration from the models already established in advanced countries in this field, particularly those in North America (USA, Canada, UK). After an analysis of the educational and healthcare systems, how is Morocco coping with this trend, which has become a necessity in this era, and how can it implement this advanced practice?

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ADVANCED NURSING PRACTICE: A NEW PERSPECTIVE ON NURSING CARE IN MOROCCO

Advanced practice nursing (APN) is a new trend emerging in the current context to address several crucial challenges. It aims to meet these growing health needs of the population. This population is currently experiencing aging, an increase in chronic disease rates, the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Moreover, the shortage of healthcare professionals requires innovative solutions to ensure adequate coverage. APN encourages innovation and healthcare system reform, thereby improving the effectiveness and efficiency of care. It also helps to increase coverage and access to healthcare services while aiming to improve patient satisfaction rates. Finally, this approach contributes to reducing health inequalities, ensuring equitable access to care for all segments of the population.

Indeed, in Morocco and French-speaking countries, this practice creates much confusion among practitioners and decision-makers, but it is not a new practice in Anglo-Saxon countries, where it is deeply rooted in history. It was first in the United States that the concept of advanced practices emerged in the mid-20th century, notably under the influence of the nurse theorist Hildegard Peplau. It was later adapted and developed in different countries. Since then, in response to the increasingly complex healthcare needs of the population, the principle has begun to develop, and new titles have emerged: Clinical nurse specialists and advanced nurse practitioners, either in primary care settings (dispensaries, private practices, etc.) or in clinical specialties (neonatology, cardiology, nephrology, oncology, etc.).

Historically, the nursing profession in Morocco has undergone a significant transformation, especially with the shift to university-level education initiated in 2013. This reform aimed to enhance the professional status of nurses and align their training with international standards. However, despite these advances, challenges remain regarding the recognition and integration of advanced practice roles (APN) in the healthcare system. The Moroccan Health Plan 2025 emphasizes the need to clearly define the roles and ethical standards of healthcare professionals, including nurses (Ammari & Gantare, 2021).

Additionally, local studies reveal that 28.45% of nursing students are considering abandoning their studies, citing inadequate clinical internships and high psychological pressure (El Fadely et al., 2024). Training conditions remain a major obstacle. While the Higher Institutes of Nursing and Health Technologies have opted for a large-scale recruitment of teacher-researchers, the majority of them are still not specialized in nursing sciences. Currently, doctoral programs, whether PhD or DNP, have yet to be established. The development of a locally specialized faculty is planned for the medium term. The nurses who hold doctoral degrees are gradu-

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