Chapter 18 Leadership as an Integral Part of Advanced Nursing Practice

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ABSTRACT

Leadership is a process whose function is to exert influence in order to achieve a purpose anchored in a shared vision. Leadership in advanced nursing practices involves a combination of three attributes: the ability to influence others for ends you consider important, the ability to modify a situation and bring about changes, and the power to transform. In short, leadership simply means influencing, modifying, and transforming. Advanced practice nurses play a crucial role in crisis response leadership, encompassing emergency preparedness, ethical considerations, improving patients care and advancing the nursing discipline, this shows the importance of developing strong leadership skills and abilities to improve patient care

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outcomes. The evolution of nursing practice towards advanced roles, such as the Advanced Practice Nurse, highlights the growing importance of nursing leadership and the need for nurses to develop leadership skills to meet the demands of modern healthcare systems. The aim of this chapter is to clarify the leadership aspects of advanced nursing practice.

INTRODUCTION

In the field of nursing, leadership emerges as a crucial competency, especially in advanced practices. As healthcare systems evolve and become increasingly complex, the role of nurses is transforming, necessitating not only advanced clinical skills but also leadership abilities to navigate these dynamic environments. (Sullivan, s. d, 2010) Nursing leadership is no longer confined to formal management positions but extends to all levels, from clinical practice to administrative roles. Advanced nursing practices encompass a wide range of clinical and non-clinical skills that enable nurses to provide effective care in complex healthcare settings. These skills go beyond the extensive acquisition of clinical knowledge to include areas such as research, education, and leadership. Leadership, in reality, is the core of advanced nursing practice. Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) are responsible, as leaders, for guiding health policies, managing clinical teams, and leading quality and safety research initiatives. Their leadership roles are not limited to clinical decision-making but also extend to enhancing the training of other healthcare professionals, implementing changes in healthcare systems, and continuously improving care processes. Nurse practitioners must also possess skills in communication, problem-solving, and resource management to effectively address the complex issues of the modern healthcare industry.

This chapter explores the different dimensions of leadership in the field of nursing, highlighting the importance of this competency in improving care quality and patient outcomes.

THE ROLE OF NURSING LEADERSHIP IN THE HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

A leader is a person whom others voluntarily follow, whereas leadership is defined as the art of influencing others to willingly and enthusiastically strive towards goals (Weihrich & Koontz, 1993) (Dyess & Sherman, 2011). Additionally, a leader must be an effective and trustworthy advocate who inspires courageous action by 8 more pages are available in the full version of this document, which may be purchased using the "Add to Cart" button on the publisher's webpage: <u>www.igi-</u> <u>global.com/chapter/leadership-as-an-integral-part-of-</u> <u>advanced-nursing-practice/373788</u>

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