Professional Nursing Practice

*"Nursing is an art; and if it is to be made an art, it requires as exclusive a devotion, as hard a preparation, as any painter's or sculptor's work."*

*"It is one of the Fine Arts;I had almost said the finest of the Fine Arts."*

* **Nursing as a Profession:**

Nursing is a profession focused on assisting individuals, families, and communities to attain, recover, and maintain optimum health and function from birth to old age. Nursing care involves any number of activities, from carrying out complicated technical procedures to something as seemingly simple as holding a hand. Nursing is a blend of science and art. The science of nursing is the knowledge base for the care that is given, and the art of nursing is the skilled application of that knowledge to help others reach maximum health and quality of life.

* ***Characteristics of Nursing***

1. Nursing is caring.
2. Nursing involves close personal contact with the recipient of care.
3. Nursing is concerned with services that take humans into account as physiological, psychological, and sociological organisms.

* **An occupation** refers to the kind of economic activity endeavored by a person regularly for earning money. When someone engages or occupies himself, most of the time, in any economic activity, that activity is known as their occupation.
* **A Profession**:is a calling that requires special knowledge, skill and preparation.An occupation that requires advanced knowledge and skills and that it grows out of society’s needs for special services.
* **Criteria of The Profession:**

1. ***High intellectual level of functioning :***Modern nurses use assessment skill and knowledge, have the ability to reason and make routine judgment depending on patient’s condition.
2. ***High level of individual responsibility and accountability:***Nurses must be accountable and demonstrate ahigh level of individual responsibility for the care and services they provide.
3. ***Specialized body of knowledge:*** Nursing has developed into an identifiable separate discipline a specialized body of knowledge called asnursing science was compiled through the research effort of nurses with advanced educational degrees.
4. ***Evidenced based practice:*** evidenced based practice is the practice of nursing in which interventions are based on data obtained from research that demonstrate that,the findings are appropriate and successful.
5. ***Public service.6.Well organized and strong representation. 7. Code of Ethics. 8. Competencies and ProfessionalLicense. 9. Autonomy.***

* **Dimensions of NursingPractice:**

1. ***The personal dimension:***

* The nursingassessment based upon theories ofhuman development andcommunication.
* Clients as persons, families, and/orcommunities are viewed as opensystems that interact and interfacewith the environment.

1. ***The social dimension*** focuses onthe person in the family andenvironment includes the cultural, moral, andpolitical realms.
2. ***The physical dimension***include the cardiovascular, gastrointestinal, genitourinary/reproductive, integumentary, musculoskeletal, neurologic and respiratory systems, the genetic patterns.

* **Characteristics of a Profession**:

1. Requires an extended education of its members
2. A profession has a theoretical body of knowledge leading to defined skills, abilities and norms.
3. A profession provides a specific service.
4. Members of a profession have autonomy in decision-making and practice.
5. The profession has a code of ethics for practice.

***Difference between Occupation and Profession***

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| Professions vs Occupations | | |
| 1 | College or University | On the job training |
| 2 | Prolonged education | Length varies |
| 3 | Mental creativity | Largely manual work |
| 4 | Decisions based on science ortheoretical constructs | Guided decision making |
| 5 | Values, beliefs & ethics integralpart of preparation | Values, beliefs & ethics notpart of preparation |
| 7 | Autonomous | Supervised |
| 8 | Unlikely to change professions | Often change jobs |
| 9 | Commitment > $ reward | Motivated by $ reward |
| 10 | Individual accountability | Employer is primarilyaccountable |