The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center

Nursing Professional Practice Model

All Professional Practice Model (PPM) components operate within the context of institutional Core Values:

Caring, Integrity and Discovery

Relationship-based caring

The Quality Caring Model®, developed by Joanne Duffy, Ph.D., is based on relationship-based caring and serves as the theoretical framework for nursing practice.

The nurse’s role is to engage in caring relationships that result in feeling cared for.

Improved short- and long-term outcomes are evident when patients and caregivers feel cared for.

Eight caring factors

1. Mutual problem solving
   Help patients and caregivers understand how to confront, learn and think about their health and illness, and enhance their ability to participate in making decisions about care.

2. Attentive reassurance
   Make a conscious effort to be authentically available and fully attentive to the patient.

3. Appreciation of unique meanings
   Recognize that each patient/family is a blend of their unique life experiences and sociocultural connections, and incorporate that knowledge into caring relationships.

4. Healing environment
   Provide care in a setting that is focused on maintaining patient privacy, safety and control.

5. Human respect
   Honor the individual’s worth through unconditional acceptance, kind and careful handling of their body, and recognition of their rights and responsibilities.

6. Encouraging manner
   Convey messages of support, positive thoughts and feelings, and openness to the feelings of others.

7. Basic human needs
   Understand that all human beings have basic physiological, safety, love/belonging, self-esteem and self-actualization needs.

8. Affiliation needs
   Appreciate and involve the family and caregivers, recognizing that everyone needs to feel they have a place/role in the family and in other social contexts.

Requirements of caring, professional nursing practice

- Knowledge of caring factors and relationships between self, patients, caregivers, health care team members and the community
- Skills: Behaviors and competencies
- Intentions: Attitudes and beliefs that lead to choices
- Time: Primary focus on relationships; the integration of intentions and actions

Five PPM components

- Autonomy, accountability, and excellence in practice are the professional practice values of nurses at MD Anderson.

- Primary Team Nursing (PTN) is the care delivery model used across all settings. Principles of PTN are safe and effective care; synergy of patient needs and nursing expertise; nursing team satisfaction and vitality; team-based professional practice development; interdisciplinary collaboration; and continuity of care providers/care coordination. On the inpatient side, care is delivered by nursing practice groups, headed by masters-prepared clinical nurse leaders, in which each group is responsible for a discrete patient cohort. In ambulatory settings, care is delivered by interdisciplinary teams on which nurses play a critical role.

- Professional partnerships are internal or external collaborations wherein partners merge knowledge, expertise and perspectives to improve patient outcomes. Internal professional partnerships include nurses, physicians, other professionals and volunteers. External partners include NCI, professional nursing organizations, nursing schools, Affiliate sites and Global Partners.

- Nursing expertise is visible, valued and understood, and professional autonomy is maintained. Valuing and rewarding clinical practice excellence provides a structure for ongoing education, encourages the achievement of specialty certification and supports nurse retention.

- A multidisciplinary, democratic decision-making body is accountable for the process, implementation, communication, coordination and outcome of decisions affecting clinical practice. MD Anderson Nursing’s shared governance body comprises representatives from across the institution charged with defining, implementing and maintaining institutional standards for clinical practice that are consistent with national, state and community standards of practice.

MD Anderson professional nursing practice is guided by relevant professional standards, the ANA Code of Ethics and the Nursing Practice Act.