

APPENDIX

TABLE A.1

APC Professional Organizations—Who They Are and Their Roles in Credentialing and Defining Scope of Practice

The history of professional organizations for advanced practice nursing (NPs and CNMs)³¹ began with the founding of the **American Nurses Association** (ANA) and the **National League for Nursing Education** in 1911 and 1912, respectively. These organizations established the first scope and standards for nursing practice and education.

Although the first NP scope of practice and standards documents were established within the ANA in the early 1980s, multiple organizations have emerged to represent and credential NPs, all with varying philosophies and requirements. In addition, specialty organizations such as the Association of Women's Health, Obstetrics and Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN) and the National Association of NPs in Women's Health (NPWH) were formed to establish standards and credentialing for nurses and NPs in women's health practice. (More on these organizations below.)

Historically, nurse-midwives have been well-organized since the 1920s. The **American College of Nurse-Midwives** (ACNM), incorporated in 1955, represents both certified nurse-midwives (CNMs) and certified midwives (CMs) nationally and through state chapters (ACNM, 2009b). The ACNM provides the singular voice for professional credentialing of nurse-midwives and has developed a number of foundational documents that address the scope, standards, and competencies of CNM practice. All nurse-midwifery education programs are accredited by the independent **Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education** (ACME), and all CNMs are required to be certified to practice as midwives (ACNM, 2006a, 2006b). The independent **American Midwifery Certification Board** (AMCB) is charged with ensuring that individual nurse-midwives are competent to enter practice as CNMs through the national certification examination.

Unlike for CNMs and PAs, no single professional organization provides sole leadership in professional credentialing and regulation of NPs. Currently, both the **ANA** and the **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners** (AANP) represent the national and state interests of practicing NPs in the professional regulation and credentialing arenas. The ANA's unified definition, scope, and standards of nursing practice and ethics (including advanced practice nursing) linked with a broad social policy and core values provide the foundation of NP credentialing. The AANP's contribution to professional credentialing includes an NP-focused role definition along with both scope and standards of NP practice (AANP, 2002, 2007a, 2007b). The **Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses** (AWHONN) and **Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health** (NPWH) provide standards and competencies related to the NP role, the population focus (women's health), as well as the specialty practice of NPs in primary care and reproductive health (AWHONN, 1998; AWHONN & NPWH, 2002). AWHONN addresses practice, research, and education issues in women's health, obstetric, and neonatal nursing specialty practice. The **National Organization of NP Faculties** (NONPF) represents NP educators and is responsible for establishing entry-into-practice competencies and program reviews (NONPF & AACN, 2002).

All NP programs are required to be accredited. The **National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission** (NLNAC) and the **Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education** (CCNE) accredit the majority of NP education programs at the graduate level (CCNE, 2008).

³¹ Since the 1980s, state nursing practice acts have increasingly adopted the term *advanced practice nurse* (APN) or *advanced practice registered nurse* (APRN) to delineate the unique roles of certified registered nurse anesthetists (CRNAs), certified nurse-midwives (CNMs), clinical nurse specialists (CNSs), and nurse practitioners (NPs). The contemporary term *advanced practice* reflects a vertical or hierarchical movement encompassing graduate education within nursing, rather than a simple expansion of expertise through the development of knowledge and skills.

The American Nurses

Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the nation's 2.9 million registered nurses (RNs) through its 54 constituent member associations (ANA, 2009). The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering the development of high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and lobbying Congress and the regulatory agencies on health care issues affecting nurses and the public.

The American College of

Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) is the professional association that represents CNMs and CMs in the United States. ACNM provides research, administers and promotes continuing education programs, establishes clinical practice standards, and creates liaisons with state and federal agencies and members of Congress (ACNM, 2009b). The ACNM has six regions incorporating multiple state chapters that represent nurse-midwives at the state level within professional, community, and government arenas to promote legislation/regulations supportive of maternal child health and nurse-midwifery practice (ACNM, 2009a).

The U.S. Department of Education also recognizes the **NPWH Council on Accreditation** as a national accrediting agency for women's health NP education programs. The foundation for the NP certification programs of the **American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC)**, the **AANP**, and the **National Certification Corporation (NCC)** for NPs in Women's Health is the *Nurse Practitioner Primary Care Competencies in Specialty Areas: Adult, Family, Gerontological, Pediatric, and Women's Health* (NONPF & AACN, 2002).

The **American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)**, founded in 1968, is the only national organization representing PAs in all medical specialties. The Academy assures the competency of PAs through active involvement in the accreditation of PA programs, provides continuing education, and explicates scope and standards of PA practice. In all states PA licensure requires that individuals graduate from a PA program accredited by the independent **Accreditation Review Commission for Education of the PA (ARC-PA)** and successfully complete a certification process through the **National Commission on the Certification of Physician Assistants**, which certifies that individual PAs meet knowledge and skill standards (AAPA, 2008a, 2008b). In addition, the **Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA)**, the membership association for PA educators and program directors, develops education standards and competency criteria.

The mission of the American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) is to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs (AAPA, 2009). The AAPA has a federated structure of 57 chartered chapters representing PAs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the federal services. These chapters, through committees such as government relations, political action, and professional practice, advocate for their PA members by engaging in legislative and regulatory activities that promote the profession as well as ensure patient safety.

The **American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP)** represents the interests of the more than 125,000 practicing NPs in the United States (AANP, 2009). Formed in 1985, it is the largest and only full-service U.S. professional membership organization for NPs of all specialties. The AANP has 36 state affiliate member organizations; the mission of the state/regional chapters is to advance and protect NPs and the profession and to provide quality services including representation, advocacy, communication, and educational opportunities to members.

The mission of the **American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA)** is to promote quality, cost-effective, accessible health care and to promote the professional and personal development of PAs (AAPA, 2009). The AAPA has a federated structure of 57 chartered chapters representing PAs in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Guam, and the federal services. These chapters, through committees such as government relations, political action, and professional practice, advocate for their PA members by engaging in legislative and regulatory activities that promote the profession as well as ensure patient safety.

TABLE A.1**References**

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TABLE A.2**Credentialing Mechanisms and Professional Organizations**

Credentialing Mechanisms	Advanced Practice Nursing		PA
	CNM	NP	
Education requirements	Graduate degree offered by all CNM programs by 2010	Graduate program required (master's, doctorate)	Graduate degree not required; 75% of PA programs offer master's degree
Education program standards	Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education (CCNE) or National League for Nursing Advisory Committee (NLNAC) for nursing programs; ACNM Committee on Education	CCNE or NLNAC; National Organization of NP Faculties (NONPF) AWHONN/NPWH Guidelines for some WHNP Education Programs	PA Education Association (PAEA)
Education program accreditation	Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education	AACN/CCNE and NONPF	Accreditation Review Commission (ARC) on Education for the PA
Philosophy of care	ANA Social Policy Statement ACNM Philosophy of Midwifery Care	ANA Social Policy Statement	AAPA Role of the PA; Medical Practice Model
Scope of practice: Role (CNM, NP, PA) Population (women's health, primary care)	ANA Scope of Advanced Practice Nursing ACNM definition of CNM and midwifery practice	ANA Scope of Advanced Practice Nursing AANP Scope of NP Practice	AAPA PA Scope of Practice
Standards of practice and professional performance	ANA Standards of Nursing Practice ACNM Standards of Midwifery Practice	ANA Standards of Nursing Practice AANP Standards of NP Practice	PA practice standards use medical practice standards
Standards of practice—women's health care	ACNM Standards of Midwifery Practice	AWHONN/NPWH Guidelines for WHNP Practice	APAOG guidelines—ObGyn PA practice; defer to medical specialty standards (ACOG)
Core competencies	ACNM Core Competencies for basic midwifery practice	U.S. DHHS/Division of Nursing NP Primary Care Competencies: Adult, Family, Gerontologic, Pediatrics, Women's Health	AAPA Competencies for the PA Profession
Code of ethics	ANA Code of Ethics ACNM Code of Ethics for Midwives	ANA Code of Ethics	AAPA Guidelines for Ethical Conduct for PA Profession
Certification programs	American Midwifery Certification Board	American Nurses Credentialing Center (ANCC); AANP Certification Program; NCC-WHNP	National Commission on Certification of PAs
Specialty standards, guidelines: Reproductive health, abortion care	ARHP Reproductive Health Education and Core Curriculum; AAP Reproductive Options in Nursing Education Consortium; National Abortion Federation Abortion Care Standards and Guidelines		

TABLE A.3***National APC Professional and Specialty Organization Websites***

American Nurses Association (ANA): <i>APN philosophy, standards, and scope of practice</i>	www.nursingworld.org
American College of Nurse-Midwives (ACNM) <i>Midwifery philosophy, scope, standards, and core practice competencies</i>	www.midwife.org
American Academy of Nurse Practitioners (AANP): <i>NP scope and standards of practice</i>	www.aanp.org
American Academy of Physician Assistants (AAPA) <i>PA scope and standards of practice</i>	www.aapa.org
National Organization of NP Faculties (NONPF): <i>NP core competencies (role, population)</i>	www.nonpf.org
National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (NPWH): <i>Population standards and scope of practice</i>	www.npwh.org
Physician Assistant Education Association (PAEA) <i>PA education standards</i>	www.paeaonline.org
Association of Women's Health, Obstetric & Neonatal Nurses (AWHONN): <i>Population standards, scope, and clinical guidelines</i>	www.awhonn.org
Association of Reproductive Health Professionals (ARHP): <i>Educational and professional resources in reproductive health and abortion</i>	www.arhp.org
Clinicians for Choice/National Abortion Federation (NAF): <i>Abortion care clinical guidelines, standards</i>	www.prochoice.org
Association of PAs in Obstetrics-Gynecology (APAOG): <i>Standards and training opportunities</i>	www.apaog.org

TABLE A.4*Organizational Acronyms Used in the APC Toolkit*

Acronym	Organization
AACN	American Association of Colleges of Nursing
AAFP	American Academy of Family Physicians
AANP	American Academy of Nurse Practitioners
AAP	Abortion Access Project
AAPA	American Academy of Physician Assistants
ACME	Accreditation Commission for Midwifery Education
ACNM	American College of Nurse-Midwives
ACOG	American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists
AMA	American Medical Association
AMCB	American Midwifery Certification Board
AMWA	American Medical Women's Association
ANA	American Nurses Association
ANCC	American Nurses Credentialing Center
APA	American Psychological Association
APAOG	Association of Physician Assistants in Obstetrics and Gynecology
APHA	American Public Health Association
ARHP	Association of Reproductive Health Professionals
AWHONN	Association of Women's Health, Obstetric and Neonatal Nurses
AZBN	Arizona Board of Nursing
BON	Board of Nursing
CAPS	Planned Parenthood Consortium of Abortion Providers
CCNE	Commission of Collegiate Nursing Education
FSMB	Federation of State Medical Boards
ICM	International Council of Midwives
KBN	Kentucky Board of Nursing
NAF	National Abortion Federation
NANPRH	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Reproductive Health (now NPWH)
NCC	National Certification Corporation
NCSBN	National Council of State Boards of Nursing
NDBN	North Dakota Board of Nursing
NLNAC	National League for Nursing Accreditation Commission
NONPF	National Organization of Nurse Practitioner Faculties
NPWH	Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health (formerly NANPRH)
NPWH	National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health
NSFC	Nursing Students for Choice
ONA	Oregon Nurses Association
OSBN	Oregon State Board of Nursing
PAEA	Physician Assistant Education Association
PPFA	Planned Parenthood Federation of America
PRCH	Physicians for Reproductive Choice and Health
ROE	Reproductive Options Education Consortium
WHO	World Health Organization

APPENDIX A.5

Glossary

Advanced Practice Clinicians: The umbrella term *advanced practice clinician* (APC) is used to refer to the collected roles of nurse practitioner (NP), certified nurse-midwife (CNM), and physician assistant (PA) in this document. In the United States, CNMs, NPs and PAs have been categorically referred to as “midlevel provider” or “nonphysician provider,” which does not adequately reflect their contribution as independent and qualified primary care professionals. However, the ideal taxonomy has yet to be identified. The term, advanced practice clinician or APC is not accepted by the American Academy of PAs who have a published position on appropriate titles for PAs: “*The AAPA believes that, whenever possible, PAs should be referred to as “physician assistants” and not combined with other providers in inclusive non-specific terms such as “midlevel practitioner”, “advanced practice clinician”, or “advanced practice provider” (AAPA, 2008).*”

Collective Bargaining: Collective bargaining is negotiation between organized workers and their employer or employers to determine wages, hours, rules, and working conditions. (p.41)

Competence: Competence requires the ethical adaptation and integration of knowledge and skills into the behaviors needed in a particular context. (p. 52)

Credentials: Titles or degrees held by an individual, indicating the level of education, certification, or licensure. (p. 31)

Credentialing: Refers to regulatory mechanisms that are applied to individual professionals, educational programs, or organizations. Forms of credentialing include state licensure, national certification of practice expertise, and accreditation of generic and advanced practice education programs. (p. 31)

Peri-abortion Care: Peri-abortion care encompasses pregnancy options counseling through the abortion procedure (medication, aspiration) to postabortion follow-up and care. (p. 87)

Practice Essentials: Practice essentials are documents developed by health professional organizations (such as practice philosophy, standards, core competencies, and ethical guidelines) that are essential for competent clinical and professional practice. These “practice essentials” provide the basis for education, legal regulation, professional certification, and practice credentialing. (p.40)

Scope of Practice: Scope of practice statements define what health professionals can do for/with patients, what they can delegate, and when collaboration with others is required. APC scope of practice is defined by professional organizations and codified and monitored by state regulatory agencies. Although CNMs and NPs have markedly different scopes of practice, both have their roots in nursing. And physician assistant (PA) practice which grew out of a medical model of care, shares an overlapping scope of practice with advanced practice nurses who are providing women’s primary care. (p. 33)

Standards of Practice: Standards of practice define safe practice, describe a competent level of care, address practice qualifications, document basic and advancing practice, and provide the yardstick for measuring practice. They reflect the values and priorities of the profession. (p.52)

Standards of Professional Performance: Standards of professional performance describe a competent level of behavior in the professional role—including activities related to quality of practice, education, ethics, professional practice evaluation, collaboration, resource utilization, and leadership. (p.52)

APPENDIX: A.6

Supplemental References

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