

Standards
for Professional Practice

POSITION STATEMENT

STANDARDS FOR PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE

The relevant registering authorities establish entry-level standards for the profession of nursing. They represent the level of competency expected of every registered nurse at the time of admission to the register.

Standards for professional practice in Developmental Disability Nursing represent the performance, which might be expected from a registered nurse who has been working for a period equivalent to 12 months full-time in any developmental disability context.

These standards complement and extend the standard for professional practice expected from all registered nurses.

These standards for Developmental Disability Nursing provide the foundation for public accountability as well as serving as a guide for the evaluation of Developmental Disability Nursing practice. If standards of practice are to remain relevant as well as add to the continuing development of Developmental Disability Nursing knowledge it is imperative that they be reviewed on a regular and consistent basis.

PRINCIPLES SUPPORTING THE STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY NURSING

These standards for professional Developmental Disability Nursing practice are based on three principles.

1. Standards are concerned with the performance of professional practitioners in their working environments.
2. Standards for professional practice include professional attributes that are believed to underpin competence in the context of Developmental Disability Nursing.
3. Standards for professional practice specify the minimum level of performance required, the outcomes to be anticipated, and the context in which the performance takes place.

STANDARDS FOR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY NURSING PRACTICE

1. The Developmental Disability Nurse establishes partnership as the working basis for therapeutic relationships.
2. The Developmental Disability Nurse provides systematic nursing care that reflects contemporary nursing practice and the client's holistic needs within the context of their life situation.
3. The Developmental Disability Nurse promotes the health and wellness of individuals, families, and communities.
4. The Developmental Disability Nurse ensures their nursing practice is culturally appropriate through the identification of and reflection on relevant cultural issues.
5. The Developmental Disability Nurse commits to ongoing education and professional growth and develops the practice of Developmental Disability Nursing through the use of appropriate research findings.
6. The Developmental Disability Nurse practice within an ethical and legal framework incorporating the concepts of professional identity, independence, interdependence, authority and partnership.

ADVANCED PRACTICE STANDARD

Developmental Disability Nurses demonstrate advanced practice when they are able to integrate at a level of excellence, the previous six standards incorporating them in clinical practice, leadership, management, research or education.

