What is a Professional Practice Model?

The professional practice model illustrates alignment and integration of nursing practice with the mission, vision, and values adopted by nurses in an organization. It depicts how nurses practice, collaborate, communicate, and develop professionally to provide the highest quality care for those served by the organization.
History of AtlantiCare’s Nursing Professional Practice Model

2002 - AtlantiCare nurses designed a philosophy of nursing which became a touchstone for how we believe nursing should be practice. It was based on the ANA scope and standards of practice, code of ethics, and our organizational mission, vision, and values.

2007 - Jean Watson’s theory of human caring was selected as our nursing theory through review and voting process by nurses. The theory aligns with our PACE (Patients are the Center of Everything) approach to care, our organizational mission, vision, values, and our philosophy of nursing.

2011 - the first schematic depiction of the PPM was developed with input from nurses throughout the organization through our shared decision making process. This schematic incorporated Watson’s theory, the ANA scope and standards of practice, code of ethics, and our organizational mission, vision, and values. We advanced the acronym PACE to have greater meaning and incorporate the nursing philosophy adopted earlier. PACE included

*Practice – Accountable – Caring – Embrace*

2016 - a revised picture of the tree which is more life-like and demonstrates our ability to constantly grow and mature as professionals was developed. As an organization, we adopted the C.I. CARE communication process. Nurses recommended we add this into the schematic.

2017 - the new picture with the insertion of the sun representing C.I.CARE was adopted.

Bathed in the rays of C.I.CARE, nurses strive to establish trusting relationships among our patients, their families, and our colleagues in all of our interactions.

Ethical nursing practice is based on the nursing code of ethics and scope and standards of practice. These guiding principles empower all nurses to deliver exemplary professional nursing care through evidence-based practice leading to sustained quality outcomes, in a culture of safety. Nurses are engaged in decision making through our shared governance model of councils, unit based forums, and committees.

The PPM is a visual reminder for all nurses about why we chose nursing and how we exemplify nursing professionalism. AtlantiCare nurses are accountable to create caring, healing environments, while maintaining a culture of safety and quality for our patients, colleagues, community, and ourselves. Watson’s Theory of Human Caring serves to guide our nursing practice in concert with the C.I.CARE communication framework. And so, as trees grow, our tree too has grown. This is a perfect metaphor depicting our maturing nursing practice at AtlantiCare.

*AtlantiCare Nursing Philosophy*

**Our nurses believe that each person can make a difference and to that end we:**
- Embrace a high caliber of ethics, integrity, cultural sensitivity, and respect for each patient’s unique needs and plan care accordingly.
- Constantly strive to provide a safe and caring environment that exceeds our customer’s expectations.
- Promote optimum wellness for all we touch.
- Collaborate with and value all members of the care team.
- Provide for a continuum of services to enhance health and wellness at all levels of the life-cycle.
- Strive to provide cost effective quality care to all who enter our doors.
- Base our practice on professional standards specific to our diverse patient populations.
- Perceive ourselves as advocates, innovators and pioneers in the practice of human caring.
- Utilize professional development, evidence based practice, nursing research, and the ability to embrace change as means to continuously refine our personal and comprehensive practice in the art and science of Nursing. (http://www.atlanticare.org/index.php/careers/atlanticare-nursing)

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