PRACTICE:

<u>Practice</u> is the effective use of the nursing process components of assessment, diagnosis, outcome identification, planning implementation and evaluation in varied practice settings.

Nurse I, level 2 -Practice	Nurse I, level 3 - Practice	Nurse II - Practice	Nurse III - Practice
Demonstrates competency using the nursing process in providing care for clients. Directs other who provide care.	Demonstrates proficiency using the nursing process in providing care for clients with complex nursing care needs. Guides and directs other who provide care.	Applies the nursing process to systems or processes at the unit/team/work group level to improve care. Demonstrates leadership by involving others in improving care.	Provides leadership in the application of the nursing process to client care, organizational processes, and/or systems, improving outcomes at the program or service level.
Nurse Smith competently manages the care of 4 to 5 patients per shift on a busy medical unit that using the primary nursing model. She has developed knowledge and skill to address acute and chronic medical conditions. She is responsible for guiding LPN and NA staff, as well as students.	Nurse Smith has become proficient in practicing primary care nursing of 4 to 5 patients per shift. Her interest in wound care has established her as a resource for addressing wound care issues for her patients. She has provided the LPN and NA staff education related to the management of patients with wound and skin issues. As a result, peer review chart reviews have shown that her team has completed 98% of their wound care assessments as required. She joined the unit wound care committee.	During this rating period, Nurse Smith evolved as a leader in wound and skin management by evaluating current wound care practices and products used on her unit and comparing that with current evidence based practices- specifically the use of wet to dry dressings. As a member of the wound care committee, she participated in developing a proposal to replace current practice of using wet to dry dressings with products and processes recommended by the Wound, Ostomy and Continence Nurses Society. The proposal was sent through and approved by the Unit Practice Council. Nurse Smith taught all of the nursing staff on her unit how to appropriately utilize the new wound care products. The medical surgical unit where Ms. Smith works has improved the number of appropriate wound care products that they utilize and there has been a decrease in hospital	Nurse Smith has continued to be recognized as a leader in wound and skin management as evidenced by her new role as the Chair of the Wound Care Collaborative which brings a multidisciplinary approach to wound and skin management with representation from Physicians, Physical Therapists, Pharmacy, Nutrition and Food Service and Nursing. She succeeded in her efforts that began last year to recruit and train wound care champions in every venue of care including 14 Community Based Outpatient Centers (CBOCs) and Community Living Center. To support continuity of wound care practices across the health care system, she provides all inpatient nursing staff eight hours of instruction in wound and skin care and all CBOC nurses four hours. As a direct result of her efforts, the facility exceeded wound and skin care performance measures in all care venues with the most drastic improvement being a 22% reduction in hospital acquired pressure ulcers throughout the system

[acquired pressure ulcer on her unit	
		for the past 6 months following her	
		unit in-service.	
DDACTICE (cont/d)			
PRACTICE: (cont'd)			
<u>Ethics</u> indicates the ability of th	e professional nurse to make decision	ns and take action in an ethical mann	er.
Nurse I, level 2 – Ethics	Nurse I, level 3 - Ethics	Nurse II - Ethics	Nurse III - Ethics
Acts as a client advocate	Identifies Ethical Issues in practice	Serves as a resource for clients and	Provides leadership in identifying and
	and takes appropriate action	staff in addressing ethical issues.	addressing ethical issues that impact clients
			and staff, including initiating and
			participating in ethical consultations
A Transgendered Veteran was	A Transgendered Veteran was	Although the Medical Center had not	Recognized as a resource to clients and staff
admitted to the medical unit	admitted to the medical unit. Nurse	admitted many transgendered	related to LGBT issues, Nurse Jones initiated
after transfer via ambulance	Jones observed disrespectful	Veterans, Nurse Jones noticed an	an ethics consult to the ethics committee to
from a private hospital. Nurse	discussions related to this Veterans	increase in admissions in this	discuss findings from chart reviews of
Jones practiced with respect to	gender identity among fellow nurses	population. Nurse Jones observed	Transgendered Veterans admitted to the
this Veteran by addressing her	as well as housekeeping staff.	disrespectful discussions among	hospital over the past 12 months. In her
by her preferred name. She	Among the participating staff was a	fellow nurses, housekeeping staff and	review, she found that staff was not
initiated a literature review and	Nurse Manager from a different unit.	a Nurse Manager from a different	compliant with VHA Directive 2013-003 and
found several articles, a VHA	Nurse Jones located VHA Directive	unit related to this sub-population of	that ethical consultations are encouraged to
Directive and the Joint	2013-003. Providing Health Care for	Veteran's gender identity. She	address the provision of respectful care for
Commission Standards (TJC)	Transgendered and Intersex	conducted a literature review and	transgendered and intersex Veterans the
related to care of Lesbian, Gay,	Veterans" and during the lunch break	found several articles related to	facility utilized her expertise to develop and
Bisexual, and Transgender	encouraged staff to review the	health disparities among LGBT	implement the facility preventive ethics
(LGBT) Veterans to help guide	document . When the patient was	patients, current VHA Directive 2013-	cycle project for the year. The project
her practice. She also was able	ready for discharge, Ms. Jones	003, Providing Health Care for	consisted of development of a facility wide
to provide this Veteran access to	protected her dignity by acquiring	Transgendered and Intersex Veterans	sensitivity training related to the
VA information (VHA Directive	new clothing from Voluntary Services	and the current Joint Commission	transgender patient. All Service Chiefs are
2013-003, and a VHA website,	as she was transferred to the VA in a	Field Guide "Advancing Effective	required to provide this training during
www.diversity.va.gov to learn	night gown.	Communication, Cultural	regular staff meetings. Nurse Jones has
more.		Competence, and Patient- and	joined the Diversity Committee to represent
		Family-Centered Care for the LGBT	the needs of LGBT Veterans across our
		Community." She provided a short	organization. In the last rating period, she
		presentation during next staff	organized VA participation in the Gay Pride
		meeting about the VHA Directive	event to provide education and outreach to
		2013-003, Providing Care for	our LGBT Veterans. Over 40 LGBT Veterans

		<i>Transgendered and Intersex</i> <i>Veterans.</i> , she educated 12 peers and they were able to identify three new actions they would do for this population to support their unique health care needs. She also provided a copy of the VHA Directive to the Chief of Housekeeping Services and offered to provide the same education during their staff meeting.	participated in the event and more than 100 staff from multiple disciplines. The Director requested that Nurse Jones LGBT training become an annual offering for the facility.
--	--	---	---

PRACTICE: (cont'd)

Resource Utilization assesses the nurse's consideration of factors related to safety, effectiveness and cost in planning and delivering care.

	l		
Nurse I, level 2	Nurse I, level 3	Nurse II	Nurse III
Resource Utilization	Resource Utilization	Resource Utilization	Resource Utilization
Plans and organizes care	Delegates care in a safe,	Identifies and assesses resource utilization and safety	Manages program resources (financial,
based on client needs and	efficient, and cost effective	issues, taking appropriate action.	human, material, or informational) to
provider competencies to	manner. Assists clients in		facilitate safe, effective, and efficient
assure safe, efficient and	identifying and securing		care.
cost-effective care.	appropriate services.		
As a CBOC nurse, Mr.	During the rating period,	Nurse Smith explored the process for getting sterile	Nurse Smith continued his efforts this
Smith recognizes the need	Nurse Smith ensured his	instruments from the main medical center and	rating period to increase accessibility to
to plan and organize care	CBOC patients had the	determined there were multiple steps required to	disposable instruments in the CBOCs
in advance to ensure he	supplies, equipment and	ensure safe, efficient delivery of sterile items to the	across his health care system. Nurse
has access to needed	instruments needed by	CBOC. With the support of his Nurse Manager, Nurse	Smith gave a presentation during the
supplies and instruments	reviewing his panel for the	Smith led a group of CBOC nurses to investigate the	monthly statewide ambulatory care
needed for the day.	next week. If necessary, he	use of disposable instruments in the clinic to	meeting about switching to disposable
During the morning	notifies his manager	determine if it would be a cost effective alternative.	instruments and volunteered to lead a
huddle, he looks for	identifying what supplies,	He worked with fiscal to determine shipping costs,	facility-wide workgroup to spread this
planned procedures and	equipment, or instruments	identified disposable instruments available from VA	best practice. Converting one clinic each
makes a list and locates	were not available to ensure	sources and acquired samples for nurse/provider	month until all CBOCs across the health
the items he may need	they can be procured from	evaluation. After the analysis was completed the clinic	care system had switched to disposable
during the day to ensuring	the main medical center. He	work group determined an estimated cost savings of	instruments. In addition, Mr. Smith
efficient delivery of care.	coordinated with acquisition	over \$7,500.00 if the clinic switched to disposable	coordinated with Nursing Service and
	to ensure glucometers were	supplies and equipment. Nurse Smith shared the	Acquisitions and Material Management
	available for the newly	results of their workgroup with VA leadership, VA	Service to have the disposable supplies

on tea sup	gnosed diabetes patients his team. Nurse Smith's m consistently has the plies and equipment they ed to care for the patient.	trial utiliza After six m approxima through re no longer f	ers, and Nurse Smith's clinic was allow tion of disposable equipment and sup onths, the clinic realized a cost saving tely \$3,400.00 and care was improve liable access of instruments, and pat had appointment delays or needed to appointments due to the lack of ava ipment.	oplies. gs of d ients	and equipment added to the OMNI cells to ensure that items were automatically reordered, and the units could track the amount of supplies they were using. Overall, the new process has saved over \$30,000.00 and resulted in a safer, more reliable, cost effective option for care delivery.
	s an indicator of acquisition	and use of o	current knowledge for self and other	1	
Nurse I, level 2 Education/Career Development	Nurse I, level 3 Education/Career Deve	elopment	Nurse II Education/Career Development	Nurse Educat	III ion/Career Development
Seeks knowledge and skills appropriate to the practice setting to improve performance	Implements an ongoin educational plan to sup professional developm	oport own	Acquires knowledge and skills to maintain expertise in area of practice. Participates in educational activities to improve clinical knowledge and enhance role performance.	changi others	nents an educational plan to meet ng program or service needs for self and . Maintains knowledge of current ques, trends, and professional issues.
Nurse Jones mandatory training current, and she attended hospital wide in-services on medication administration and wound care. Nurse Jones demonstrated the ability to articulate and find policies and procedures related to nursing practice on the hospital share point site., e.g. diabetic protocols, foley catheters, safe patient handling). Nurse Jones continues to increase her knowledge base through reading in nursing journals.	Jones took 15 continuir education units related for oncology patients, a Mediports, and providi patient-centered care. She obtained Med-Surg o Certification. Continued nursing journals as refe support and enhance h practice. Nurse Jones Enrolled in a Covey cou provided by facility to a	ng to caring accessing ng holistic, d to utilize rences to er nursing rse assist her and	Nurse Jones obtained 30 continuing education units on patient-centered care, geriatrics, oncology, time management, and sterile procedure. She attended A two day Office of Nursing Service (ONS) Conference related to Oncology Care for the Veteran Patient. After the class she recommended a unit performance improvement project related to the need for Chemo Certified Nurses on Med- Surg units when Oncology Nurses are unavailable (pm/nights) to prevent overtime and improve	2010. She ob joined to Onc the On Med-Su chemo certific have o provide Med-Su	Jones graduated with a MSN in Dec of tained Oncology Nurse Certification, Oncology Nursing Society, and subscribes ology Journals. Nurse Jones transferred to cology unit, assisted in cross-training four urg Nurses, and developed an educational program for the Med-Surg nurses to for chemo certification. After eight Med- urses completed Nurse Jones therapy review program they took the cation and 7 out of the 8 Med-Surg Nurses btained chemo certification. Nurse Jones es this training program quarterly to the urg Nursing staff. Cross-training initiatives ded to include three nurses in the ICU. As a

Jones co the Med Oncolog discuss p training.	es of access to care. Nurse bordinated meetings with d/Surg Nurse Manager and gy Nurse Manager to plan and arrange cross c. Nurse Jones obtained certification.	result of the additional Nurses being trained to provide chemotherapy services there was a facility-wide elimination of overtime related to oncology nurse overtime from an annual expenditure of approximately \$64,000. Nurse Jones chaired an interdisciplinary meeting to address the need to have on-going competencies of the cross-trained nurses ensuring they would have the necessary exposure to maintain their new skills. Nurse Jones also participates as the lead instructor reviewing safety guidelines for the oncology patient in the monthly orientation of new nurses hired throughout the facility.
--	---	--

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT (cont'd)

Performance asks that the nurse evaluate his or her own nursing practice as well as performance of others

Nurse I, level 2 - Performance	Nurse I, level 3 - Performance	Nurse II - Performance	Nurse III - Performance
Incorporates feedback regarding	Conducts self-assessment of	Evaluates practice of self and	Uses professional standards of care and practice
performance and interpersonal	performance and identifies own	others using professional	to evaluate programs and/or service activities.
skills to enhance professional	learning needs. Assesses	standards, relevant statutes, and	
development. Participates in the	performance of others.	regulations. Takes action to	
performance evaluations of		improve performance.	
others			
Nurse Smith participates in peer	Nurse Smith completed a written	Nurse Smith turned in a written	Nurse Smith turned in a written self-assessment
review process through chart	self-assessment for this year's	self-assessment for this year's	for this year's rating review.
review and preceptor evaluation.	rating review. She identified the	proficiency she developed a	She completed a thorough search of the literature
She is open to feedback to	need to learn additional	monitoring tool with input from	on the Joint Commission Standard of identifying
improve performance areas of;	information about Oncology and	the Quality Safety Value Service	and addressing learning barriers. She compiled
time management, IV skills, and	use of Chemo medications on the	related to the Joint Commission	relevant references and initiated a
delegating care.	unit.	standard to identify and	multidisciplinary team with the support of her
To increase her skills with lab	She is compliant in completing the	document learning barriers when	Nurse Manager and Associate Chief Nurse to
draw's and IV starts, Nurse Smith	10 peer review audits per quarter	developing a plan of care or	address the system-wide issue. Ms. Smith led the
requested the assistance of her	to the Nurse Manager. She	providing education. She Provided	implementation of the team's recommendations
co-workers by having them refer	identified a common issue of staff	an in-service to all unit staff about	which included changes to the computerized
patients to her who need IV	not assessing for learning barriers	the tool and the Joint Commission	patient record system (CPRS) to include a field

starts and blood draws in order	when developing care plans and	standard. She monitored	that included documentation of learning barriers,
for her to gain additional	reported her findings to her Nurse	compliance with documentation	ongoing training was conducted, and
experience when the opportunity	Manager.	and noted a 20% improvement	incorporated in new employee orientation, as
presents. Nurse Smith increased		over a period of three months	well as monthly facility chart audits were
the number of IV and blood draws		post in-service.	completed. The facility compliance increased
being conducted from 2-3 starts a			from 14% to 45% during this rating period.
week to 2-3 starts a day.			
She provides performance			
feedback on student nurses to			
their instructors, and participates			
in students obtaining additional			
training /experience in the sterile			
technique process when inserting			
foley catheters.			

COLLABORATION:

<u>Collaboration</u> is the analysis of interpersonal skills as they relate to working with clients, significant others and healthcare and service providers.

Nurse I, level 2 Collaboration	Nurse I, level 3 - Collaboration	Nurse II - Collaboration	Nurse III - Collaboration
Participates effectively on teams	Refers to, consults with, and	Uses group process to identify,	Uses group process to identify, analyze, and
to plan and manage client care.	makes provision for continuity of	analyze, and resolve care	resolve care problems.
	care with other health care	problems.	
	providers.		
While caring for a patient with the	Nurse Jones realized patients	Nurse Jones realized that many	Nurse Jones requested to review the outcomes of
diagnosis of congestive heart	assigned to her team with the	telemetry patients diagnosed with	her unit's improvement of patient's daily weights
failure (CHF), Nurse Jones realized	diagnosis of CHF were not	CHF did not have documented	from approximately 44% to 90% compliance for
that the patient was not being	consistently weighed despite	daily weights. Upon receiving her	the CHF patients at the Clinical Practice Council
weighed consistently despite an	active orders. Nurse Jones	Nurse Manager's approval, Nurse	for Nursing Service. She presented her findings
active order for daily weights.	changed her practice to assess all	Jones initiated a work group	and recommend spreading the interventions
Nurse Jones collaborated with the	new admissions for CHF and	composed of two Registered	throughout the inpatient units.She recommended
Nursing Assistant and developed a	check patient orders at the	Nurses, two Nursing Assistants,	the initiation of a new workgroup composed of
plan to assure daily weights were	beginning of each shift. When she	and a Case Manager. Nurse Jones	potential RN's and Nursing Assistant super users
taken and recorded accurately.	determined the patient was	discussed the team's findings at	from each Inpatient Unit, a Physician, a Case
During shift handoff, Nurse Jones	diagnosed with CHF, she screened	the next staff meeting and	Manager, and Informatics Nurse. The team, led by
contributed to the team	the patient to determine if a	collaborated with the staff to	Nurse Jones, collaborated with the informatics
conference by communicating the	referral to a chronic disease	develop meaningful and relevant	nurse to modify the CHF order set to

and the state of the second state of the sta		the second second second second second	a ta sa ta di ta di da da ta statu a Titu a
patient's diagnosis and plan of	management nurse was	interventions that included	automatically include daily weights. The team
care to the oncoming team,	appropriate. During shift handoff,	reporting of CHF status at all shift	implemented the best practices identified by
charge nurse, and case manager.	Nurse Jones consistently	handoffs and an agreement that	Nurse Jones unit related to shift handoff and
	contributed to the team by	night shift nursing assistants	night shift nursing assistants taking daily weights
	communicating which patients	would be responsible for weighing	throughout the inpatient units. Nurse Jones
	had a diagnosis of CHF and the	patients. Chart reviews for the	collaborated with Logistics and the service
	C C	-	5
	plan of care to the oncoming	following three months revealed	administrative officer to develop a business case
	team, charge nurse, and case	greater than 90% unit compliant	for purchasing necessary equipment. Each unit
	manager.	with daily weight orders for CHF	received the equipment purchased. Compliance
		patients.	greater than 90% has been maintained
			throughout the facility for two quarters as
			evidenced by continued chart audits.

COLLABORATION (cont'd):

<u>Collegiality</u> measures the nurse's contribution to the professional development of peers, colleagues and others.

Nurse I, level 2 – Collegiality	Nurse I, level 3 - Collegiality	Nurse II - Collegiality	Nurse III - Collegiality
Shares knowledge and skills with	Provides feedback regarding the	Educates students and serves as	Coaches colleagues in team building.
colleagues/others.	practice of others to improve	a preceptor and/or mentor.	Makes sustained contributions to health care by
	client care.		sharing expertise within and/or outside the
			facility.
As a new graduate, Nurse Smith	One of Nurse Smith's patients	Nurse Smith frequently serves as	Through her unit work with code simulation,
was familiar with the use of	suffered a cardiac arrest during an	a preceptor to nursing students	Nurse Smith realized that ineffective
simulation to practice challenging	inpatient admission. Nurse Smith	and new graduate nurses. Nurse	communication was often the impediment to
patient care situations. When the	successfully led the code and the	Smith collaborated with the unit	timely interventions. Nurse Smith researched
unit educator introduced a	patient was transferred to the	educator to routinely provide	communication and team building techniques and
simulated patient code scenario,	intensive care unit. At the	simulated code experiences. The	ultimately learned about TeamSTEPPS which is an
Nurse Smith shared her	conclusion of the code, Nurse	student's nursing instructor	evidence-based teamwork system aimed at
knowledge of simulation with her	Smith initiated a team huddle to	wrote a letter of appreciation	optimizing patient outcomes by improving

colleagues and helped decrease their anxiety related to the new technology.	discuss potential areas of improvement. The NA told Nurse Smith that she had never experienced a code and was very anxious. Nurse Smith then collaborated with the unit educator to provide simulated patient code experiences.	stating how Nurse Smith is one of the most sought after preceptors and how much the students enjoy performing in the simulated codes. The two new graduate nurses Nurse Smith precepted during this rating period are performing above expectation.	communication and teamwork skills among health care professionals. Nurse Smith made a proposal to the Clinical Practice Council to integrate TeamSTEPPS training in new employee orientation and provide training for all existing employees. The proposal was accepted and Nurse Smith led the organization to successfully integrate teamwork principles throughout the health care system. As a result of the training, simulated code success increased from 78% for
			the organization to 91% for the fiscal year.

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY:

Quality of Care is a measure of how the nurse systematically evaluates and improves the quality and effectiveness of nursing practice and health care delivery.

Nurse I, level 2 -Quality of Care	Nurse I, level 3 - Quality of Care	Nurse II - Quality of Care	Nurse III - Quality of Care
Uses quality improvement	Participates in established	Initiates/participates in quality	Initiates interdisciplinary projects to improve
findings to guide and direct own	quality improvement studies	improvement activities that	organizational performance.
practice.	and/or activities.	result in improved outcomes.	
As a new BSN, RN, Nurse Jones	Nurse Jones participated in the	Nurse Smith initiated a unit	Nurse Smith initiated an inpatient multi-
who works 12 hour day shifts on a	unit workgroup that was formed	focused workgroup on PRN pain	disciplinary workgroup that consisted of the Chief
med/surg unit changed her	after the Joint Commission Survey	management as her unit was only	Nurse, Physician, Pharmacy, staff RN, staff LPN,
practice of documenting PRN	to ensure that pain was being	documenting the effectiveness of	Nursing Assistant, ADPAC and quality management
effectiveness for pain medications	managed at the facility. Nurse	pain medications 70% of the time.	representatives. Nurse Smith determined that the
after a recent Joint Commission	Jones collected the PRN pain	She collaborated with the NM to	facility was not effectively managing pain and that
finding that noted the facility was	effectiveness rate for her shift.	form this group consisting of a	all PRN medications were not being monitored for
not effectively managing pain.	Nurse Jones made the	RN, LPN and NA that works on her	effectiveness and documented timely. Nurse
	recommendation for the nurses	unit. The workgroup analyzed the	Smith led the workgroup in flow mapping the

	on the unit to implement her practice of running a PRN pain medication list at the end of each shift in order to improve the PRN pain documentation.	PRN Pain effectiveness findings. The new process has sustained over 95% compliance with PRN pain documentation for the past 3 months on the unit	current process. The group then took the common factors and developed a second flow map, added missing steps and deleted non-value added steps to create the current process. All units have sustained >/=95% for 3 months since instituted. SHEP scores still pending for improvements due to lag time of survey.					
	<u>SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY (cont'd):</u> <u>Research</u> measures the nurse's use of research in practice.							
Nurse I, level 2 - Research	Nurse I, level 3 - Research	Nurse II - Research	Nurse III - Research					
Demonstrates awareness of research application to practice.	Uses a body of research to validate and/or change own professional practice.	Uses a body of research to validate and/or change work group practice.	Collaborates with others in research activities to improve care.					
Nurse Jones, recently read an article in the Journal of Urology regarding the relationship between foley catheters and urinary tract infections (UTIs). She discussed the article with the facility Infection Control Nurse (IC) and asked her about the prevalence of UTIs on the unit.	Nurse Jones recently read an article in the Journal of Urology regarding the relationship between foley catheters and Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs). Nurse Jones made a conscious effort to incorporate the information related to foley catheter insertion, securement, and maintenance into her daily practice.	Nurse Jones RN, recently read an article in the Journal of Urology regarding the relationship between foley catheters and Urinary Tract Infections (UTIs). Nurse Jones reviewed her practice to validate her use of the evidence related to catheter insertion, securement, and maintenance into her daily practice. Ms. Jones discussed with both her Nurse Manager and the IC Nurse how to best make the reduction of catheter associated UTIs a unit goal. The initial compliance was 40% for securement and 42% for maintenance. They have now been monitoring compliance and providing education follow-up for 9 months. Compliance for foley catheter securement has	During the last rating period, Nurse Jones implemented an evidence based practice change on her inpatient unit of reviewing current evidence based literature on the relationship between catheter associated urinary tract infections (CAUTI), implementing shift champions, and monitoring compliance with appropriate securement and maintenance. After nine months the compliance rate for appropriate securement increased by 20% and the compliance for appropriate maintenance elements increased by 26%. After having such a positive impact at the unit level Ms. Jones was determined to take the success across the inpatient settings of the medical center, including two additional Med-Surg Units, the Intensive Care, Progressive Care Unit and the Community Living Center. With the support of all of the unit managers, she asked for individuals from each clinical area to be identified as unit champion. Prior to initiation of the champion group, CAUTI rates were 8%, after 6 months the facility wide rate decreased to 3%. Ms. Jones					

increased to	60% and	completed a poster presentation based on her
maintenance	e elements have	findings and presented at the annual nurse's week
increased to	64%.	poster presentation.