

Advanced Nursing Practices: concepts and strategies in the implantation*Práticas Avanzadas de Enfermería: conceptos y estrategias en la implantación**Práticas Avançadas de Enfermagem: conceitos e estratégias na implantação***Franciane Schneider¹**

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The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) and the World Health Organization (WHO) continually debate strategies and actions aimed at Universal Health Coverage, in which important challenges are considered: human resources in health, combating inequalities in access to comprehensive health care, quality of services and protection from financial risk¹. Given the existing scenario and the different health needs of the populations, it is observed that it is essential to introduce models of care capable of innovating and improving health systems, with Advanced Nursing Practice being one of the proposed solutions.

The origin of Advanced Nursing Practice occurred in the United States and Canada over 40 years ago and has gradually been established in other countries. Currently, more than 70 countries are interested in implementing Advanced Nursing Practice, just as there are different stages of its development². In Brazil, there is a growing interest in the implementation of this care model, with an emphasis on Primary Health Care (PHC), as it is the foundation of an effective and responsive health system, which focuses on health promotion and disease prevention³.

The Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) is one who has acquired the base of specialized knowledge, complex decision-making skills, and clinical skills for expanded practice, through educational preparation at an advanced level. The characteristics that outline their functions and practical activities are shaped according to the context of each country and according to the different health care scenarios⁴.

The implementation of Advanced Nursing practice effectively is facilitated by an approach focused on objectives and results, starting with the assessment of the real health needs of the population and the early engagement of key stakeholders. It is important to discuss the current health care model, define and prioritize the necessary changes and determine the role of the APN with the goals of improving the quality of care and how this action will interact and collaborate with the other members of the interdisciplinary team. It also highlights the relevance in the development of high-quality education programs and the standardization of APN academic and professional training, in addition to the establishment of legislation and regulations that support the scope of the practice². The nature of Advanced Nursing Practice is related to: a) education: master's degree as a minimum training and development of specific skills for expanded performance; b) scope of practice: ability to integrate research (evidence-based practice), education, leadership and management; advanced assessment, judgment, clinical / diagnostic reasoning and decision-making skills; clinical case management -

direct and indirect care at an advanced level; support and / or performance with an emphasis on professional collaboration; high degree of professional autonomy and independent practice - possibility to order tests, prescribe medications and / or treatments and refer patients / users to other services or professionals of the health team; plans, coordinates, implements and evaluates actions to improve health services at an advanced level; c) research: develops and integrates research knowledge and skills into practice; and d) leadership: leader in the development of processes and innovations in clinical practice and leader in advancing the practice in search of quality and economical results for the patient / user and health systems⁴.

The terms often used to refer to the APN are Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS) and Nurse Practitioner (NP). The CNS has greater responsibilities for non-clinical activities, such as education, improvements in care (development of clinical guidelines and protocols) and management of health services; was introduced into health services to provide highly complex and specialized care, develop nursing practices and support generalist nurses, lead initiatives to improve care quality and evidence-based practices. The NP tends to be more involved in clinical care, has an expanded

scope of clinical practice that gives it autonomy to coordinate diagnoses and prescribe treatments and / or medications; began his professional career with the aim of increasing access to health services and acting on inequalities in primary care in rural communities and vulnerable populations^{2,4}.

Studies point out some challenges in the implementation of Advanced Nursing Practice, which are mainly related to the lack of alignment and understanding of the role of the APN, variability in the standards and quality of educational programs, scope of practice conflicting with the functions of other members team and current health care model (focus on the physician)².

It is noteworthy that the implementation of Advanced Nursing Practice has as its main objective to contribute to a better quality of assistance to populations and to the expansion of access, transforming and impacting health systems. It is also noted that its implementation is identified as an important strategy of human resources to health to improve the recruitment and retention of professional nurses in their areas of activity and to provide opportunities for career progression, as well as the development of the profession.

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