

FAITH COMMUNITY NURSING: SCOPE AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

The *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2005) is now available! This document is the result of the American Nurses Association mandated process of review and revision of the *Scope and Standards of Practice of Parish Nursing* (1998) and represents a synthesis of ideas from more than two hundred nurses practicing in various parts of the country.

Faith community nursing is the specialized practice of professional nursing that focuses on the intentional care of the spirit as part of the process of promoting wholistic health and preventing or minimizing illness within a faith community (ANA/HMA, 2005, p. 1). Intentional care of the spirit is what makes this practice different from other nursing care.

The Faith Community Nurse (FCN) is a registered professional nurse, actively licensed who serves as a member of the staff within the faith community. The FCN must be knowledgeable in the nursing process, the health care assets of the community, and the spiritual beliefs and practices of the faith community to be served. The FCN strives to promote health and prevent or minimize illness through the integration of the care of the spirit with the body and mind (ANA/HMA, 2005). The FCN primarily uses the interventions of: education, counseling, advocacy, referral, utilization of external resources, developing and supervising volunteers, and collaborating with colleagues to meet the needs of patients.

The best way to understand the requirements of this specialty practice is to read *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2004) and then *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2005). Every FCN must first meet the practice requirements of general nursing before adding the requirements of the specialty practice. The scope statements in these documents describe the who, what, where, when, why, and how of practice. The standards are authoritative statements that describe the responsibilities for which the nurse is held accountable. The standards provide both the direction for practice and a framework for evaluating practice.

Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice may be ordered on-line, along with the companion document *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2004), from the Health Ministries Association www.HMAAssoc.org or the American Nurses Association.

References

American Nurses Association (2004). *Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*. Washington, D.C.: Nursebooks.org.
American Nurses Association and Health Ministries Association (2005). *Faith Community Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice*. Washington, DC: Nursebooks.org.