



Position Statement

Advanced Practice in Nephrology Nursing

The present health care environment mandates increased access to high quality, cost-effective, patient and family focused care. Trends in the incidence and prevalence of chronic kidney disease (CKD) indicate that this population will continue to grow. This growth will be accompanied by an increased need for qualified health care providers who have the knowledge and skills to manage, provide, and coordinate the care of this complex patient population. Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in nephrology nursing are qualified providers to meet the needs of this population.

It is the position of ANNA that:

- The APRN in nephrology, transplantation and related therapies, by virtue of education, training, and certification, as well as documented competencies, is able to provide safe, competent, high-quality care in a cost-effective manner.
- APRNs should receive full compensation from both public and private payers with direct reimbursement.
- We support the ANA's Nursing's Social Policy Statement and Consensus Model for APRN Regulation: Licensure, Accreditation, Certification & Education (APRN Consensus Work Group, 2008),
- The minimum requirements for an APRN, with specialization in nephrology, are graduate level preparation and initial APRN certification. Additional certification such as a Certified Nephrology Nurse (CNN) or Certified Nephrology Nurse - Nurse Practitioner (CNN-NP) is preferred.
- The APRN in nephrology refers to those caring for individuals in the nurse practitioner or clinical nurse specialist roles in any nephrology setting.
- The inclusion of APRNs should be included in all care models/projects, e.g. value-based care models and/or disease management programs.
- We support APRN Compact legislation in all states, although enactment is still pending in 7 states (NCSBN, 2025).

Rationale

In addition, the APRN focuses on promoting the health and well-being of patients and on preventing disease and/or its subsequent complications along the entire continuum of kidney dysfunction. The APRN provides and coordinates the care of patients with kidney disease in the acute, chronic, and primary care settings and across all treatment modalities. The APRN is an integral member of the health care team and works collaboratively with other health care professionals to ensure the highest standard of quality care. Nurses with graduate degrees may hold a variety of positions including, but not limited to, management, research, education, case management/care coordination, and quality management (Gomez, 2022). The role of the APRN is determined by each State Nurse Practice Act. The skills of the APRN in nephrology include, but are not limited to:

- a. Assess the health care needs of individuals, families, groups, and communities across the health care continuum, in a variety of health care settings.
 - Promotes health, disease prevention/progression, and overall health management.
 - Provides health counseling and education
 - Manages acute and chronic disease and their complications
 - Provides palliative care and end-of-life needs of individuals and their families.

- Participates in disease management proposals, quality improvement measures, and outcome management activities.
- b. Uses the nursing process to assess, identify working diagnosis, develop plan of care, implement, and manage care as well as to evaluate the outcomes of that care.
 - Conducts complete history/physical exams.
 - Uses diagnostic reason to analyze health histories and test results to form a differential diagnosis and create treatment plans.
 - Interprets laboratory and diagnostic data to develop.
 - Prescribes, administers, and evaluates pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic therapeutic treatment regimens.
- c. Functions in the role of consultant, clinical practice, educator, and researcher.
- d. Participates and provides leadership for practice changes through advocacy and legislative activities.
- e. Acts as mentor to other nurses and advocates for patient needs and healthcare.
- f. Contributes to the generation of the knowledge base for nursing and specifically nephrology nursing through research, publications, presentations, and participation in the development of standards and clinical practice guidelines.
 - Engages in research and evidence-based practice to improve quality of care.
 - Analyzes data and research to contribute to the APRN knowledge base.

Reference

APRN Joint Dialogue Group. (2008). *Consensus model for APRN regulation: Licensure, accreditation, certification and education*. Retrieved from <https://www.nursingworld.org/certification/aprn-consensus> model/faq-consensus-model-for-aprn-regulation/

Gomez, N. (2022). *Nephrology nursing scope and standards of practice (9th ed.)*. American Nephrology Nurses Association.

National Council of State Boards of Nursing (NCSBN). *APRN Compact*. Retrieved September 4, 2025, from <http://aprncompact.com/>

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