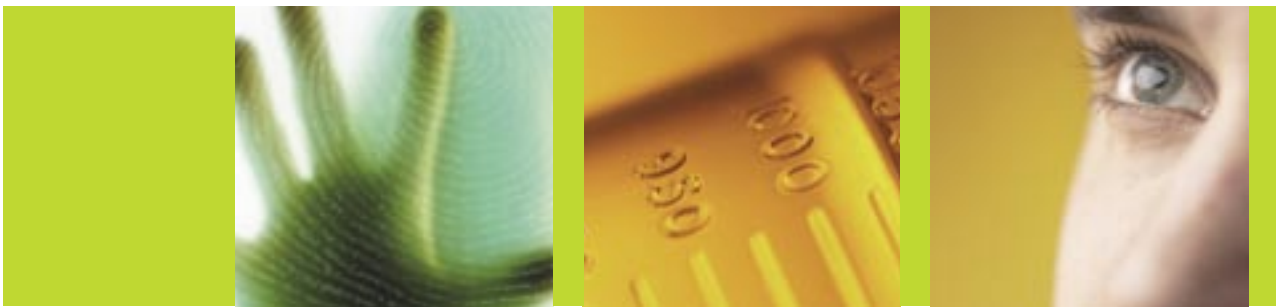


Competency Standards

for nurses in general practice



Role statement for the enrolled nurse in general practice

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Role statement for the enrolled nurse in general practice¹

Nurses in general practice demonstrate competence in the provision of primary health care centred on individuals and groups, in accordance with their educational preparation, professional nursing standards, relevant legislation and practice context in an environment characterised by unpredictability and individual diversity across the lifespan.

While the role of the nurse varies according to the practice client population, practice structure, employment arrangement and category of nurse, most nurses provide a combination of direct clinical care and manage clinical care systems in an environment which is often isolated from other nurses. This requires that the nurse promotes health care centred on individuals and groups by working collaboratively with others both in and outside the general practice.

The enrolled nurse is legally required to be supervised by a registered nurse and is accountable and responsible for all aspects of delegated care¹.

The relationship between nurses in general practice and individuals/groups usually extends beyond single episodes of care to meeting changing health care needs and priorities across the lifespan.

Both registered and enrolled nurses play a pivotal role in health promotion, health maintenance and prevention of illness through provision of evidence based information and education to individuals, groups and communities. This requires knowledge of resources available within the community and health care sectors to facilitate care for individuals and groups and the skills to communicate and educate.

All nurses in general practice need computer literacy skills. Enrolled nurses need to be able to use and maintain recall, infection control and quality improvement systems.

All nurses have a responsibility to know and practice within their scope of practice relevant to their education and qualifications. The enrolled nurse in general practice can assume responsibilities according to their education, experience and the availability of registered nurse supervision.

All nurses in general practice have a responsibility to seek out and engage in ongoing education and professional development to maintain the competencies that are specific to nursing in general practice settings.

¹ Note that in South Australia, enrolled nurses can apply to the nurse regulatory authority for authorisation to work without the supervision of a registered nurse.