



Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc.

## POSITION STATEMENT

### *Role Delineation of the Registered Nurse in a Staff Position in Gastroenterology*

#### Disclaimer

The Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (SGNA) assumes no responsibility for the practices or recommendations of any member or other practitioner or for the policies and procedures of any practice setting. Nurses and associates function within the limitations of licensure, state nurse practice act, and/or institutional policy.

#### Definitions

**Role delineation** is a description of the responsibilities and functions of a health care worker in a specific role, including the current activities common to this role.

#### Background

The role of the Gastroenterology (GI) Registered Nurse has expanded with advancing technology and defined patient needs. Recognizing that the role of the staff nurse in gastroenterology continues to evolve, the following is a statement intended to broadly describe the responsibilities and functions of the Registered Nurse in a staff role specializing in gastroenterology nursing. The roles that the GI Registered Nurse assumes depend on his/her basic nursing preparation, specialized formal or informal education, and clinical experiences. Certification in gastroenterology through the American Board of Certification for Gastroenterology Nurses (ABCGN) validates the acquisition of specialized skills and knowledge. Registered Nurses practice in a variety of settings, such as hospitals, private offices, ambulatory care centers, and clinics (SGNA, 2008). The GI Registered Nurse functions within the scope of practice as defined by state nurse practice acts, job description of the employing facility, *Standards of Clinical Nursing Practice and Role Delineation Statements* (SGNA, 2009), and the *Guide to the Code of Ethics for Nurses: Interpretation and Application* (Fowler, 2008).

#### Position

The GI Registered Nurse is accountable for the quality of nursing care rendered to patients. The GI Registered Nurse assumes responsibility for assessing, diagnosing, identifying outcomes, planning, implementing, and evaluating nursing care of patients. Additionally, the GI Registered Nurse role includes directing and supervising nursing care for patients in the gastroenterology setting. The GI Registered Nurse is responsible for determining the education and competency level of assistive personnel to whom he/she is delegating patient care (American Nurses Association [ANA], 2010). The following are general statements describing the GI Registered Nurse role congruent with the ANA (2010) criteria.

The role of the GI Registered Nurse in gastroenterology includes, but is not limited to:

1. Systematically assessing the health status of individuals and record related health data,
2. Establishing nursing diagnoses,
3. Planning and implementing nursing interventions,
4. Providing pre, intra, and post procedure education to the patients, families, significant others, and/or caregivers ,
5. Providing health promotion strategies and education to patients and their support system,
6. Administering and evaluating pharmacological and other therapeutic treatment regimens mandated by the particular situation, evidence-based practice, and recent advancements in gastroenterology,
7. Evaluating outcomes of nursing intervention and initiating change when appropriate,
8. Documenting relevant data in accordance with institutional policy,
9. Employing strategies to promote a healthy and safe environment,
10. Making ethical and moral decisions surrounding patient care,
11. Acknowledging diversity when providing patient care,
12. Assisting the physician and/or advanced provider during diagnostic and therapeutic procedures to promote optimal patient outcomes,
13. Promoting optimal patient outcomes by recognizing changes in the patient's health status and responding appropriately,
14. Performing diagnostic studies as ordered,
15. Assisting in the management of follow up care,
16. Collaborating with the patient and interprofessional team to ensure quality and continuity of care,
17. Communicating effectively with the patient and interprofessional team to ensure quality and continuity of care,
18. Serving as a patient advocate,
19. Acting as a resource for others,
20. Serving as a mentor for others,
21. Participating in lifelong learning (e.g., continuing education, certification),
22. Contributing to evidence- based practice by participating in research activities (e.g., data collection),
23. Integrating evidence and research findings into nursing practice,
24. Participating in self evaluation reflective of professional practice standards,
25. Utilizing appropriate resources to provide safe and effective nursing services,
26. Participating in performance improvement activities, and
27. Participating as an active member in professional and consumer organizations, contributing to professional publications, and presenting at professional meetings.

### **References**

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing: Scope and standards of practice* (2nd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

Fowler, M. D. M. (Ed.). (2008). *Guide to the code of ethics for nurses: Interpretation and application*. Silver Spring, MD: American Nurses Association.

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2008). *Gastroenterology nursing: A core curriculum* (4th ed.). Chicago, IL: Author.

Society of Gastroenterology Nurses and Associates, Inc. (2009). *Standards of clinical nursing practice and role delineation statements* [Practice standard]. Chicago, IL: Author.

**Recommended reading**

American Nurses Association. (2005). *Principles for practice*. Silver Spring, MD: Author.

American Nurses Association. (2010). *Nursing's social policy statement: The essence of the profession* (3rd ed.). Silver Spring, MD: Author.

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