



CRITICAL CARE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC.

8th Floor Medical Arts Building, Philippine Heart Center, East Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines

Tel. No. 925-2401 local 3823 Telefax No. (63-2) 426-4394

email address: ccnapi_nurses@yahoo.com

website: <http://www.ccnapi.org/>

GUIDELINES FOR CRITICAL CARE NURSING

1. INTRODUCTION

The health care industry all over the world has been undergoing great changes over the past two decades and the Philippines has been part of these transformational events having great impact on the quality of nursing practice. There are new expectations in the way nurses and the nursing practices are to be delivered particularly now that there are many challenges that besiege the present time as a consequence of the complexities of globalization.

In the Philippines, the Professional Regulation Commission – Board of Nursing (PRC-BON) is committed to provide need-driven, effective and efficient specialty nursing care services of high standard and at international level within the obtainable resources. To respond to this mission and commitment, a PRC-BON Working Group in Developing the Nursing Specialty Framework was formed sometime in 1996 to take on the task of setting the process-based framework and guidelines for specialty nursing services. Working Group members comprise clinical nurse practitioners, nurse educators and nurse managers¹.

However, the expanding healthcare and nursing knowledge together with new and evolving healthcare sites, structures, and technologies all have contributed to the need and desire for specialty nursing organizations like the Critical Care Nurses Association of the Philippines, Inc. (CCNAPI) to revisit the existing statement of its Standards of Nursing Practice in order to provide clear and updated statements regarding the scopes of practice and standards of critical care nursing. This will ensure continued understanding and acknowledgment of nursing's varied specialty professional contributions in today's healthcare environment.

Critical care nursing is that specialty within nursing that deals specifically with human responses to life-threatening problems². These problems deal dynamically with human responses to actual or potential life-threatening illnesses.

The framework of critical care nursing is a complex, challenging area of nursing practice which utilizes the nursing process applying assessment, diagnosis, outcome identification, planning, implementation, and evaluation. The critical care nursing practice is based on a scientific body of knowledge and incorporates the professional competencies specific to critical care nursing practice and is focused on restorative, curative, rehabilitative, maintainable, or palliative care, based on identified patient need³. It upholds multi and interdisciplinary disciplinary collaboration in initiating interventions to restore stability, prevent complications, achieve and maintain optimal patient responses. The critical care nursing profession requires a clear description of the attributes, guidelines and nursing practice standards in guiding the critical care nursing practice to fulfill this purpose.

The critical care nursing competencies statements developed in 2005 are aligned with the PRC-BON statement of the 11 Core Competencies for Entry Level for Safe and Quality Nursing Care. The CCNAPI Core Competencies of a Critical Care Nurse are stated according to the levels of expected behavior defining the actual knowledge, skills and abilities in the practice of critical care by a nursing professional. These statements cover expected behavior of a Nurse Clinician I, Nurse Clinician II and Nurse Specialist that will serve as the basis for assessing competence in critical care practice.

In the CCNAPI Standards of Practice, there is no statement that covers the goals, scope of practice and procedural standards in the care of the critically ill. Hence, these are important aspects that should be covered in this working paper.

The focus of care for the critically ill patient is holistic. However, to organize statement in this paper physiological focus will be categorized under bodily functional systems such as pulmonary system, cardiovascular system, renal system, neurological system and other system.

The specific objectives of developing this paper are:

- 1.1** To identify Critical Care Nursing Service characteristics and contributions of nurses to patient care in the specialty.
- 1.2** To develop specific competencies required for the delivery of nursing care in the critical care.
- 1.3** To provide a framework for evaluation of nursing practice within the specialty of critical care.
- 1.4** To provide a basis for the assessment of staff development needs in the critical care nursing.
- 1.5** To guide the development of collaborative relationship with other members of the health care team.

This process-based framework not only describes the critical care nursing services in Philippines, but also assists critical care nurses to have a better understanding of what is expected of them from the organization and the public perspectives.

2. PHILOSOPHY OF CRITICAL CARE NURSING

Critical care nursing reflects a holistic approach in caring of patients. It places great emphasis on caring the bio-psycho-social-spiritual nature of human beings and their responses to illnesses rather than the disease process. It helps to maintain the individual patient's identity and dignity. The caring focus includes preventive care, risk factor modification and education to decrease future patient admission to acute care facilities.

The Critical Care Nurses of the Philippines, Inc. (CCNAPI) believes that as an organization of critical care nurses, it is conscious of its responsibility for the promotion of man's health and welfare for national development, and has the desire to give support for professional and personal growth and development. CCNAPI has organized itself into a national association committed to the ideals of service to the people, equality, justice and social progress.

In the Critical Care Units, each patient is viewed as a unique individual with dignity and worth. The critically ill patient should receive comfort and privacy in a highly technological environment. In collaboration with other health care team members, critical care nurses provide high level of patient care which includes

patient and family education, health promotion and rehabilitation. To achieve this holistic care process, participation by the patient and his/her family is always emphasized. At the forefront of critical care science and technology, critical care nurses maintain professional competence based on a broad base of knowledge and experience through continuous education and evidence-based research.

With advances in sophisticated biomedical technology and knowledge, critical care nurses are able to continuously monitor and observe patients for physiological changes to confront problems proactively and to assist patients to achieve and maintain an optimum level of functioning or a peaceful death.

In other words, this nursing philosophy of the CCNAPI is accomplished by looking after critically ill patient in an environment with specially trained nurses, appropriate equipment, adequate medical supplies and auxiliary health care personnel.

3. GOALS OF CRITICAL CARE NURSING

Critical or intensive care is a complex specialty developed to serve the diverse health care need of patients (and their families) with actual or potential life threatening conditions³. It is therefore important that a clear statement of what critical care nursing wish to achieve and provide should be articulated.

Goals of **critical care nursing** include the following:

- To promote optimal delivery of safe and quality care to the critically ill patients and their families by providing highly individualized care so that the physiological dysfunction as well as the psychological stress in the ICU are under control
- To care for the critically ill patients with a holistic approach, considering the patient's biological, psychological, cultural and spiritual dimensions regardless of diagnosis or clinical setting.
- To use appropriate and up-to-date knowledge, caring attitude and clinical skills, supported by advanced technology for prevention, early detection and treatment of complications in order to facilitate recovery.
- To provide palliative care to the critically ill patients in situations where their health status is progressing to unavoidable death, and to help the patients and families to go through the painful sufferings.

On the whole, critical care nursing should be patient-centered, safe, effective, and efficient. The nursing interventions are expected to be delivered in a timely and equitable manner.

4. SCOPE CRITICAL CARE NURSING

The scope of critical care nursing is defined by the dynamic interaction of the critically ill patient, the critical care nurse and the critical care environment in order to bring about optimal patient outcomes through nursing proficiency within an environment conducive to the provision of this highly specialized care⁴.

Constant intensive assessment, timely critical care interventions and continuous evaluation of management through multidisciplinary efforts are required to restore stability, prevent complications and achieve optimal health. Palliative care should be instituted to alleviate pain and sufferings of the patient and family in situations where death is imminent.

Critical Care Nurses are registered nurses, who are trained and qualified to practice critical care nursing. They possess the standard critical care nursing competencies in assuming specialized and expanded roles in caring for the critically ill patients and their family. Likewise, the critical care nurse is personally responsible and committed to continuous learning and updating of knowledge and skills. The critical care nurses carry out interventions and collaborate patient care activities to address life-threatening situations that will meet patient's biological, psychological, cultural and spiritual needs.

The critical care environment constantly supports the interaction between the critically ill patients, their family and the critical care nurses to achieve desired patient outcomes. It entails readily available and accessible emergency equipment, sufficient supplies and effective supporting system to ensure quality patient care as well as staff safety and productivity.

5. ROLES OF THE CRITICAL CARE NURSES

In response to changes and expansion within and outside the healthcare environment, critical care nurses have broadened their roles at both practice and advanced practice levels. Competencies of critical care nurses are honed and developed to achieve their roles as a practitioner, manager / leader and researcher.

5.1 Practitioner Role

ICU nurses execute their practice roles 24-hours a day to provide high quality care to the critically ill patient.

5.1.1 Care Provider

- a. Direct patient care
 1. Detects and interprets indicators that signify the varying conditions of the critically ill with the assistance of advanced technology and knowledge.
 2. Plans and initiates nursing process to its full capacity in a need-driven and proactive manner.
 3. Acts promptly and judiciously to prevent or halt deterioration when conditions warrant.
 4. Co-ordinates with other healthcare providers in the provision of optimal care to achieve the best possible outcomes.
- b. Indirect patient care – Care of the Family
 1. Understands family needs and provide information to allay fears and anxieties.
 2. Assists family to cope with the life-threatening situation and/or patient's impending death.

5.1.2 Extended Roles as critical care nurses

Critical care nurses have roles beyond their professional boundary. With proper training and established guidelines, algorithms, and protocols that are continuously reviewed and updated, critical care nurses also perform procedures and therapies that are otherwise done by doctors. Such procedures and therapies are:

- a. Sampling and analyzing arterial blood gases;
- b. Weaning patients off ventilations;
- c. Adjusting intravenous analgesia / sedations;
- d. Performing and interpreting ECGs;
- e. Titrating intravenous and central line medicated infusion and nutrition support; and
- f. Initiating defibrillation to patient with ventricular fibrillation or lethal ventricular tachycardia.
- g. Removal of pacer wire, femoral sheaths and chest tubes
- h. Other procedures deemed necessary by their respective institution under a clinical protocol.

5.1.3 Educator

- a. Provides health education to patient and family to promote understanding and acceptance of the disease process and to facilitate recovery.
- b. Participates in the training and coaching of novice healthcare team members to achieve cohesiveness in the delivery of patient care.

5.1.4. Patient Advocate

- a. Acts in the best interest of the patient.
- b. Monitors and safeguards the quality of care which the patient receives.

5.2. Management and Leadership Role

The critical care nurse in her management and leadership role will be able to render the following responsibilities:

- a. Perform management and leadership skills in providing safe and quality care
- b. Accountability for safe critical care nursing practice
- c. Delivery of effective health programs and services to critically-ill patients in the acute setting
- d. Management of the critical care nursing unit or acute care setting
- e. Take lead and supervision among nursing support staff
- f. Utilize appropriate mechanism for collaboration, networking, linkage –building and referrals.

5.3. Researcher Role

The critical care nurse in her researcher role will be able to render the following responsibilities:

- a. Engage self in nursing or other health –related research with or under supervision of an experienced researcher.

- b. Utilize guidelines in the evaluation of research study or report
- c. Apply the research process in improving patient care infusing concepts of quality improvement and in partnership with other team-players

Advanced Practice Level

This is the future direction in the Philippines and to be benched marked with other countries. For now, a thorough study of Advanced Practice Nursing in critical care will be pursued to align with the BON initiative on specialization framework.

The current healthcare environment demands intensive care nurses to have advanced knowledge and skills to provide the highest possible level of care to the critically ill patients.

5.1.4 Expanded Roles

a. Nurse Specialist / Clinical Nurse Specialist

Typically, the education and preparation of the critical care nurse practitioner is provided by the respective hospital or institution without advanced educational preparation beyond that of the basic baccalaureate degree. Advanced educational preparation refers to the care nursing training program run by the university or Institute offering Advanced Nursing Studies or other recognized critical care program both local and overseas.

A registered nurse, who is a nursing degree holder, should have more than more than ___ years of uninterrupted practice experience in the critical care field and has attained advanced education and expertise in caring patients with critical problems can function as a critical care nurse specialist. He /She is also eligible to be accredited by the PRC- Board of Nursing as a Clinical Nurse Specialist. The Hospital Authority supports this accreditation.

The critical care nurse specialist is responsible for building up nursing competencies in the ICU entity. He / She contributes to continuous improvement in critical care nursing through staff and clients education and uphold quality nursing guidelines and patient care through clinical research and refinement of ICU standards.

b. Advanced Practice Nurse

Advanced Practice Nurse (APN) in the critical care unit takes lead in developing practices to meet changing clinical needs and to facilitate patient care processes across professional and organizational boundaries. He /She should have the recommended number of post registration nursing experience, which are spent in the critical care field, exhibiting in-depth professional knowledge and skills. An APN (Critical Care) is a holder of a) clinical master degree in a clinical nursing specialty (Medical-Surgical) such as Critical Care Nursing OR b) master degree in nursing or related discipline / management together with recognized critical care training qualification(s). The Advanced Practice Nurse executes the nursing team leader's responsibilities as designated in the position of APN (NO) or APN (Ward/Unit Management).

c. Outcomes Manager

Outcome management has been introduced into the healthcare system to ensure achievement of quality and cost-effectiveness in the delivery of patient care. Some critical care units have adopted clinical pathways (e.g., Critical Pathways, Protocols, Algorithms and Orders) in the management of specific diseases such as Acute Myocardial Infarction and Cardio-thoracic Surgeries. Qualified nurse experts are involved in the development and implementation of patient outcomes management.

5.2 Challenges that critical nurses will face:

The challenging needs from the critical care nursing service and its environments demand the nurses:

- 5.2.1 To develop, foster and maintain a level of knowledge about the norms, values, beliefs, patterns of ill health and care needs of the people;
- 5.2.2 To analyze and evaluate specialist skills and criticize their evolving roles;
- 5.2.3 To review current studies and researches and to examine contextual issues thus enabling evaluation and synthesis of new knowledge, traditional techniques, religious and cultural influences to be applied in nursing practice, particularly, evidence-based nursing practice; and
- 5.2.4 To exercise professional judgments expected of them in the critical care clinical setting.

6. TRAINING OF NURSES FOR CRITICAL CARE SERVICES

The institution / hospital should provide training opportunities to ensure staff competencies. This will enable the nurses working in the critical care units to cope with the complexities and demands of the changing needs of the critically ill patients. The following training activities should be supported in order to maintain a high standard of care:

6.1 Orientation program / Preceptorship and mentoring program

New recruits to the critical care shall attend an orientation program and be given the opportunities to work under supervision. Experienced staff in the unit should be readily available for consultation.

6.2 In-service training program

- a. Unit / hospital based training courses / workshop / seminar at hospital level
- b. On-the-job training and bedside supervision

6.3 Critical Care Nursing Program (Post-Graduate specialty program)

- a. Post-graduate Course in Critical Care Nursing / Cardiac Special Care Nursing / Cardiac Intensive Care Nursing shall be reviewed, evaluated and endorsed to PRC-BON by the CRITICAL CARE NURSES ASSOCIATION OF THE PHILIPPINES, INC for accreditation
 - i. Advanced Critical Care Nursing (ACCN) Provider Course
- b. It is recommended that the WFCCN policy statement of education shall be used as a framework for designing a critical care program. (Please see declaration of Madrid, 2005)

6.4 Continuing Nursing Education

- a. CCNAPI recommends that all practicing CCN shall ensure that they continuously update their knowledge, skills and behavior through active participation in related critical care nursing education.

This shall include but not limited to the following adult and pediatric concepts on:

- a. Advanced Cardiac Life Support
- b. Basic Critical Care Course (BCCC)
- c. Cardiac Assessment
- d. Neurological Assessment
- e. Respiratory Assessment
- f. Continuous Renal Replacement Therapy
- g. Advanced Pharmacology
- h. Advanced Intravenous Therapy
- i. Others as may be deemed necessary to enhance critical care practice

7. LEVELS & CATEGORIES OF CRITICAL CARE PROVISIONS WITHIN PHILIPPINES

With respect to the physical set-up and supporting facilities of critical care units in the Philippines, the Department of Health (DOH) Standards requires the critical care units / intensive care unit to be a self-contained area, with the provisions for resources that will support critical care practice. Currently, the DOH is reviewing these standards to come-up with updated requirement.

Sometime in 2003, the Philippine Society of Critical Care Medicine (PSCCM), Society of Pediatric Critical Care Medicine (SPCCM) and the CCNAPI stratified into different levels and categories the care provisions in critical care practice to make it similar to its counterparts overseas with the goal of having effective utilization and organization of resources. Hence, as a guide, CCNAPI will incorporate these standards into this guideline.

7.1 Levels of Care provision

The role of a particular critical care unit will vary, depending on staffing, facilities and support services as well as the type and number of patients it has to manage. Taking into account the guidelines of the Society of Critical Care Medicine, the critical care service provision in Philippines can be classified into 3 levels:

Level 1

- Should be capable of providing immediate resuscitation for the critically ill and short term cardio-respiratory support because the patients are at risk of deterioration;
- Has a major role in monitoring and preventing complications in “at risk” medical and surgical patients;
- Must be capable of providing mechanical ventilation and simple invasive cardiovascular monitoring;
- Has a formal organization of medical staff and at least one registered medical officer available to the unit at all times;

- A certain number of nurses including the nurse in-charge of the unit should possess post-registration qualification in critical care or in the related clinical specialties; and
- Has a nurse: patient ratio of 1:1 for all critically ill patients.

Level 2

- Should be capable of providing a high standard of general critical care for patients who are stepping down from higher levels of care or requiring single organ support/support post-operatively;
- Capable of providing sustainable support for mechanical ventilation, renal replacement therapy, invasive hemodynamic monitoring and equipment for critically ill patients of various specialties such as medicine, surgery, trauma, neurosurgery, vascular surgery;
- Has a designated medical director with appropriate intensive care qualification and a duty specialist available exclusively to the unit at all times;
- The nurse in-charge and a significant number of nursing staff in the unit have critical care certification; and
- A nurse: patient ratio is 1:1 for all critically ill patients.

Level 3

- Is a tertiary referral unit, capable of managing all aspects of critical care medicine (This does not only include the management of patients requiring advanced respiratory support but also patients with multi-organ failure);
- Has a medical director with specialist critical / intensive care qualification and a duty specialist available exclusively to the unit and medical staff with an appropriate level of experience present in the unit at all times;
- A nurse in-charge and the majority of nursing staff have intensive care certification; and
- A nurse: patient ratio is at least 1:1 for all patients at all times.

7.2 Categories of Critical Care Unit

The Critical Care Unit can be categorized according to patients' age group or medical specialties.

a. Age group

- Neonatal
- Pediatric
- Adult

b. Specialty

In the existing environment, majority of the Critical Care Units in the Philippines provide service for patients of various specialties. They are labeled as General ICUs. In certain hospitals, the critical care unit / service is dedicated to the following specific groups:

- Medical
- Surgical
- Cardio-thoracic
- Cardiac
- Respiratory
- Neurosurgical

vii. Trauma

7.3 System operation of Critical Care Units

The operation of critical care units can be classified into Open System and Closed System.

a. Open System

The admitting and other attending doctors dictate management, change management or perform procedures without consultation or communication with a Critical Care Specialist. A Critical Care Specialist may be available for advice or be consulted to provide interventional skills (optional). No one designated person assumes the “gatekeeper” role.

b. Closed System

Management is coordinated by a qualified Critical Care Specialist. The critical / intensive care specialist has clinical and administrative responsibility. There is a multi-disciplinary team of specially trained critical care staff. The “intensivist” is the final common pathway for all medical decision-making including the decision to admit or discharge.

Irrespective of the ICU “System” Operation, i.e. open system or closed system, or a mixture of the two, there should be a designated group of registered nurses under a unique management to provide highly specialized care to the critically ill patients. The nurse in-charge and the majority of nursing staff in each unit should have the relevant qualification in the specialty of the respective Unit.

7.4 Critical Care Nursing Workforce

The CCNAPI will adopt the Position Statement of the World Federation of Critical Care Nurses on the Provisions of Critical Care Nursing Workforce also called the Declaration of Buenos Aires ratified in the full council meeting last August 27, 2011 at the Sheraton Hotel, Buenos Aires, Argentina.

The declaration presents guidelines universally accepted by critical care professionals, which may be adapted to meet the critical care nursing workforce and system requirements of a particular country or jurisdiction. The declaration states the specific central principles governing the provision and provides for specific recommended critical care nursing workforce requirement. The complete declaration is attached as Annex to this guideline.

8. COMPETENCIES FOR CRITICAL CARE NURSES

The competence of critical care nurses together with established nursing standards and the identified core competencies for registered nurses will result to excellence in critical care nursing practice. This three pronged holistic framework ensures quality performance through an adherence to nursing standards, the application of competencies, and the integration of appropriate nursing model/s into the care delivery process.

To achieve safe and quality client-centered care, nurses working in the critical care units are envisioned to adopt not only the stated core competencies of registered nurses but also the specific competencies stipulated in the following eleven major key responsibility areas:

8.1 Safe and Quality Nursing Care

8.2 Management of Resources

8.3 Legal Responsibilities

- 8.4 Ethico-Moral Responsibilities
- 8.5 Collaboration and Teamwork
- 8.6 Personal and Professional Development
- 8.7 Communication
- 8.8 Health Education
- 8.9 Quality Improvement
- 8.10 Research
- 8.11 Record Management

| Key Responsibility Areas | Responsibilities / Tasks | Competent Behavior Clusters |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|
| I. Safe Quality Nursing Care | 1. Conducting nursing assessment <i>Description: The critical care (ICU) nurse performs patient health assessment accurately, continuously, comprehensively and systematically. The critical care nurse prioritizes the health needs of the patient from a holistic perspective.</i> | The critical care nurse: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. obtains comprehensive patient information from a holistic perspective with the aid of advanced technologies and physical examination techniques, paying particular attention to the psychosocial impact of the critical care environment on patients and relatives b. prioritizes the health needs of the patient based on the assessment data and communicates these information to the right people in a timely_right manner c. collects patient’s data in a systematic, objective and continuous manner from clinical observation and monitor devices d. ensures pertinent data are clearly documented and accessible to all health care team members |
| | 2. Formulating care plans <i>Description: The critical care nurse develops individualized, holistic and patient-centered care plans that document nursing diagnoses / identifies patient’s problems in relation to patient’s needs.</i> | The critical care nurse: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. utilizes collected data to establish a list actual and potential patient problems/needs b. collaborates with the patient, if applicable, family and other health care team members in identifying problems/needs and planning of appropriate nursing actions accordingly |

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. establishes and records the priority of problem/needs according to the actual danger or potential threats to the patient d. formulates an individualized care plan with continuous review to match both the needs of patient and family |
| | <p>3. Implementing planned care <i>Description: The critical care nurse implements planned care to achieve optimal health status of dignified death of the patient.</i></p> | <p>The critical care Nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. carries out planned patient care or immediate nursing actions in a safe, comprehensive, effective and humanistic manner according to patient's response. b. adopts evidence based practice in the care of the critically ill patients where applicable c. helps patient to survive comfortably and ensures the end of life to be peaceful and dignified |
| | <p>4. Evaluating patient's health progress and outcome <i>Description: The critical care nurse evaluates the outcomes of nursing care in an explicit, systematic and ongoing manner.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. maximizes clinical skills and monitoring devices to evaluate the care process and compares the patient's response with expected outcome b. identifies the cause for any significant difference between the patient's response and the expected outcome c. Identifies potential risk of patients, such as but not limited to DVT, aspiration, pressures, infection, fall risk, malnutrition / starvation, patient abuse, iatrogenic etiologies d. revises the care plan to ensure patient centered and quality of care to patient e. implements appropriate and effective nursing interventions to help patients and significant others address hospice, palliative and end-of-life care needs |
| | <p>5. Maintaining effective communication <i>Description: The critical care</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. reports instantly key changes of patient's |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p><i>nurse communicates relevant, accurate and comprehensive information, both verbal and written, about the patient's health status to related health care team members and family members.</i></p> | <p>health condition in an emergency</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> b. monitors and documents relevant information objectively and systematically c. maintains information in an accessible and retrievable form d. conducts effective patients and family teaching |
| | <p>6. Acting in emergency situations such as rapid deterioration, life- threatening , unstable, and critical events</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse responds swiftly in a calm and proficient manner when faced with an unexpected or rapidly changing situation related to the patient or environment.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. demonstrates knowledge of ICU emergencies such as medical emergencies, civil disasters and contingent plan for hospital emergencies b. anticipates possible changes / complications associated with particular diseases and/or treatment procedures c. implements prompt and appropriate resuscitative intervention d. keeps the medical team informed of patient's deteriorating condition in a timely manner e. fulfills the specific team role during large-scale crisis to provide safe, effective and efficient care of the needy. |
| | <p>7. Demonstrating specific knowledge and skills in the critical care setting</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse provides quality and effective care to patient in the following aspects:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pulmonary • Cardiovascular • Neurological • Renal • Gastrointestinal • Endocrine • Peri-operative | <p>A. Pulmonary care</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding of the applied respiratory physiology ii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Respiratory assessment ➤ Respiratory monitoring such as clinical observation, arterial blood gases, SpO2, ETCO2 ➤ Airway management such suctioning, chest physiotherapy, oral care, use of airway gadgets and others ➤ Respiratory investigation and |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Trauma • Burn • Organ Transplantation • Control of Infection • Psychosocial and Spiritual Care | <p>therapy such as bronchoscopy, tracheostomy, chest physiotherapy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> iii. Provides holistic care to patients in the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before and after thoracic surgery ➤ With acute or chronic respiratory disorders ➤ On ventilator support ➤ Being weaned from mechanical ventilator ➤ On oxygen therapy iv. Initiates and assists in the emergency and resuscitative procedures such as endotracheal intubation, tracheostomy and chest drain insertion v. Educates and supervises patients and families on home oxygen therapy <p>B. Cardiovascular care The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding of the applied cardiac physiology ii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Cardiovascular assessment ➤ Cardiovascular investigation ➤ Interpretation of electrocardiogram ➤ Hemodynamic monitoring such as non-invasive, arterial pressure, pulmonary artery pressure, CVP ➤ Administration of cardiac medication |
|--|--|---|

DRAFT

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none">iii. Provides holistic care to patients with the following conditions:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Before and after cardiac surgery➤ With cardiac arrhythmias and heart block➤ With cardiac disorders such as myocardial infarction, Acute Coronary Syndrome, heart failure, shock➤ On cardiovascular support such as intra-aortic balloon pump, ventricular assist devicesiv. Initiates and assists in cardiovascular resuscitation e.g. cardiac pacing, cardioversion, defibrillation, pericardiocentesis, advanced cardiac life support <p>C. Neurological care</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Has an understanding of the applied neurological physiologyii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Neurological assessment➤ Neurological investigationiii. Provides holistic care to patient:<ul style="list-style-type: none">➤ Before and after neurological operation➤ Suffering from neuro-medical disorders➤ On intracranial pressure monitoring <p>D. Renal care</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">i. Has an understanding of the |
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ii. applied renal physiology Demonstrates nursing competencies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Renal assessment ➤ Renal investigation ➤ Interpretation of blood biochemistry iii. Provides holistic care to patients with renal failure by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Peritoneal dialysis ➤ Hemodialysis ➤ Continuous renal replacement therapy (CRRT) <p>E. Gastrointestinal care The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding of the applied gastrointestinal physiology ii. Provides holistic care to patient: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ With gastrointestinal disorder such as acute pancreatitis, hepatic failure ➤ Before and after gastrointestinal operation ➤ With gastrointestinal emergencies such as gastrointestinal bleeding, bleeding esophageal varices ➤ Undergoing different procedures such as peritoneal lavage ➤ Early access and early feeding using appropriate gadgets <p>F. Endocrine care The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding of the applied endocrine physiology ii. Provides holistic care to patients |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>with the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Diabetic emergencies such as diabetic ketoacidosis, hyperglycemia, hypoglycemia ➤ Thyroid storm ➤ Other endocrine emergencies <p>G. Peri-operative care</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Equips oneself with knowledge and skills for implementation of safe, adequate evidence-based care of clients during the pre-, intra- and post operative procedures ii. Provides holistic care to patients with the following conditions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Before and after different types of operations ➤ With wounds and drains iii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in pain assessment and pain management <p>H. Trauma care</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding on the mechanism of different types of injury ii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Primary and secondary assessment ➤ Stabilization, transfer and transport of trauma patients ➤ Emergency and resuscitative procedures iii. Provides holistic care to patients |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| | | <p>with different types of trauma</p> <p>I. Burn care The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Has an understanding of the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Applied skin physiology ➤ Mechanism of injury associated with burn and inhalation injury ii. Demonstrates nursing competencies in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Burn assessment ➤ Burn resuscitation such as airway, breathing and circulation ➤ Burn wound care iii. Provides holistic care to patients with burn iv. Educates patient on long term skin care <p>J. Organ transplantation care The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Demonstrates knowledge in brain stem death test ii. Identifies potential organ donor iii. Provides holistic care to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Potential donor ➤ Perioperative transplant patient iv. Identifies potential risk associated with organ transplant and takes appropriate actions <p>K. Pain Management The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. Applies evidence-based practices on pain prevention ii. Selects appropriate assessment and intervention tools and techniques in collaboration and consultation with |
|--|--|---|

| | | |
|--|--|--|
| | | <p>other team members (such as WHO Pain Ladder or other similar framework)</p> <p>iii. Demonstrate management capabilities of clients using pharmacological and non-pharmacological interventions.</p> <p>L. Prevention and Control of Infection The critical care nurse:</p> <p>i. Has an understanding of the principles of prevention of infection</p> <p>ii. Complies with infection prevention and control guidelines</p> <p>iii. Demonstrates competency in handling and preventing infection</p> <p>iv. Monitors patient's treatment compliance and the related outcome</p> <p>v. Provides health education on infection control to the patients and relatives</p> <p>M. Psychosocial and spiritual care The critical care nurse:</p> <p>i. Identifies the psychosocial and spiritual needs of ICU patient and his/her families</p> <p>ii. Demonstrates nursing competence in communication and counseling skills</p> <p>iii. Supports the family during the loss, grieving and bereavement process</p> <p>iv. Provides psychosocial care such as music therapy, therapeutic touch and relaxation therapy to patient and his/her family according to their needs</p> <p>N. Miscellaneous</p> |
|--|--|--|

| | | |
|---|--|---|
| | | <p>The critical care nurse provides holistic care to patients with the following problems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Drug overdose ➤ Hematological failure ➤ Obstetrical emergencies ➤ Pediatric emergencies ➤ Near drowning ➤ Thermal injuries – heat stroke, hypothermia |
| <p>II. Management of Resources</p> | <p>1. Managing within the organization <i>Description: The critical care nurse understands the mission and core values of the organization and facilitates the achievement of the organizational goals.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates specialty knowledge in managing within the organization b. Uses organizational core values and objectives in line with daily work c. Follows organizational policies, procedures and protocols d. Participates in organizational initiatives by contributing constructive proposals for improvement e. Strengthens and develops critical care delivery in pace with rapid advanced technologies f. Maximizes effective resource utilization |
| | <p>2. Empowering subordinates <i>Description: The critical care nurse achieves targets through subordinates using the processes and techniques associated with motivating, coaching, delegating and supervising.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Motivates subordinates to achieve assignments and goals by providing them with the rationale for performing the task; considering and accepting their suggestions when appropriate; and reinforcing good practice b. Collaborates tasks and deploys subordinates according to their capabilities and job experiences, to allow immediate delivery of critical care services in crisis management c. Encourages subordinates to participate in specialty activities, and stimulates their |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | <p>3. Assisting in maintaining a safe and healthy working environment <i>Description: The critical care nurse carries out activities to assist in maintaining a favorable working environment</i></p> | <p>innovation in critical care nursing development</p> <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Creates a favorable working environment that maximizes the production of high quality critical care delivery Establishes effective feedback loop between health care teams, patients and relatives Contributes to the maintenance of occupational health and safety, and prevention of occupational hazard ensuring positive practice environment. Establishes effective linkages between inter and intra departments and hospitals to share updated specialty information and different experiences, thus preparing the organization to cope with continuous external changes more efficiently Reports any unfavorable environment which may have a negative impact on the patient's physical, psychological and social well being as well as the process of rehabilitation. |
| <p>III. Legal Responsibilities</p> | <p>Fulfilling legal responsibilities and acting as patients advocate <i>Description: The critical care nurse functions in accordance with common law, ordinance and regulations influencing nursing practice.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Demonstrates awareness of the relevant ordinances and organizational regulations that have legal regulations such as Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses and the Philippines Nursing Law of 2002 (RA 9173). Acts on the all ethical principles and ensures that no action or omission is detrimental to the safety of patients. Familiarizes with the legal procedures for organ transplantation and be sensitive to organ preservation management and family support. Ensures that informed consent has been |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| | | <p>obtained prior to carrying out invasive and non-invasive procedures and medical treatment, particularly when patient or/and family does not have complete information to make an informed decision.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> e. Facilitates delivery of comprehensive explanation to patient/family if indicated to empower them to make responsible choice. f. Maintains legible, dated signed and accurate nursing records to fulfill legal responsibilities. g. Is aware of self-limitation and seeks advice and supervision from senior if a delegated task or responsibility is felt to be beyond current training or ability, (e.g., informs seniors that he/she has no experience and training in caring patient undergoing continuous renal replacement therapy). h. Reports any unfavorable environment which may have a negative impact on the patient's physical, psychological and social well being as well as the process of rehabilitation. |
| <p>IV. Ethico-Moral Practice</p> | <p>Practicing ethico-moral standards of the nursing profession.</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse demonstrates the appropriate application of knowledge in nursing practice, which complies with the code of professional conduct, principles of autonomy, beneficence and justice. She / He also accepts personal responsibility for one's own professional judgments and actions as well as consequence of one's behavior</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Has respect for patient / family rights including confidentiality b. Conducts intensive care nursing practice and makes sound independent clinical judgment in a way that can be ethically justified c. Aware of the importance of open discussion with others about his/her own views on ethical dilemmas d. Reports all perceived unethical incidents to responsible person such as but not limited to, responsible use of technology (clinical or administrative); use of communication devices not related to clinical practice e. Maintains professional decorum in dealings with patient, family and co-workers. |

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p>V. Collaboration and Teamwork</p> | <p>1. Maintaining collaborative relationships in the multi-disciplinary team <i>Description: The critical care nurse maintains collaborative relationships within the ICU team. This relationship contributes towards the achievement of smooth and effective team performance in accomplishing common goals.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Contributes in various clinical meetings to provide professional input in patient care management such as case conference and risk management meeting b. Values team members’ participation and joint decision-making c. Seeks opportunities to participate in cross-functional, multi-disciplinary quality improvement initiatives |
| | <p>2. Maintaining a cohesive nursing team <i>Description: The critical care nurse establishes and maintains harmonious working relationships with nursing colleagues</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates knowledge of team concepts (e.g., discuss the dynamic of teams, participates in various stages of team growth: forming, brainstorming, and performing) b. Demonstrates understanding of the structure, functions and purposes of the team c. Demonstrates understanding of the role of different team members and the agreed goals d. Takes initiatives to participate in team discussion and to achieve team goals and objectives e. Shows willingness to share workload when needed f. Participates in various intensive care related activities such as CQI projects, research activities, infection prevention and control survey |
| <p>VI. Professional and Personal Development</p> | <p>1. Facilitating the development of nursing knowledge in clinical setting <i>Description: The critical care nurse takes initiative to support or conduct activities, which promote the advancement of nursing</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develops the necessary skills and initiates efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of service; seeks opportunities for further development within the organization and contributes to |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| | <p><i>knowledge</i></p> | <p>the training and development needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Facilitates learners to achieve their training and development needs c. Conducts coaching and actively participates in preceptorship and mentorship d. Assists in ward orientation/induction for new nurses and alerts them to the specific requirements in caring ICU patients. e. Assimilates the evidence-based research findings to further improve clinical practice f. Supports or participates in nursing research g. Shares and disseminates evidence-based findings h. Shares clinical experience and knowledge with colleagues i. Applies theoretical knowledge to practice j. Identifies areas for enhancement of nursing knowledge such as counseling and communication skills in all areas of critical care practice including bereavement process |
| | <p>2. Promoting the professional image of ICU nurse</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse acts in manner that maintains active ongoing involvement in activities related to the nursing profession such as ICU conference, workshop and course; and promotes the professional image of nursing.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Asserts professionally in the health care team b. Shows concerns about the public interest regarding health promotion and maintenance c. Acts in the manner of a knowledgeable, competent, responsible, accountable and caring professional with critical thinking to achieve the aimed objective d. Supports activities run by professional organization such as micro-teaching and sharing session of clinical experiences e. Promotes spirit of professional cohesiveness f. Acts for the collective interest of the |

| | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|
| | | <p>profession</p> <p>g. Adopts continuous improvement in nursing</p> |
| | <p>3. Evaluating own nursing practice and knowledge to enhance personal skills</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse assesses self-awareness of his/her own professional competence continuously and independently; maintains up-to-date nursing knowledge to keep abreast of nursing trends and nursing standards in specialty practice.</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Uses professionally acceptable standards or practice to assess self-performance b. Demonstrates proficiency in providing care to patients receiving different modes of treatment in acute settings to achieve intended outcomes and prevent or minimize adverse outcomes c. Demonstrates awareness of individual strength and limitations and the importance of enhancing nursing knowledge d. Seeks additional information/opportunities to polish personal skills and qualities e.g. attending courses/seminars or reading books on relevant subjects when unfamiliar clinical situations with no precedents are encountered e. Develops own personal development plans that include attending in-service ICU courses, ICU scientific meetings, overseas ICU conferences, tertiary educational programs and reading ICU specialty journals/literature, etc. f. Shares up-to-date ICU nursing knowledge and current practice with nursing colleagues |
| VII. Communication | <p>Communicates with individual patient and/or groups and with other members of the health care team</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse takes initiative to communicate with individual and / or groups and with other members of the health team to facilitate care</i></p> | <p>The ICU nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develops the necessary skills and initiates efforts to improve efficiency and effectiveness of communication; b. Uses a range of appropriate communication strategies which will have effective outcome such as but not limited to Hand-off communication, use of SBAR |

| | | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|
| | <i>and management of the patients</i> | <p>on referral, use of ICU flow sheet .</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> c. Encourages the use of non-verbal / alternative communication techniques including information technologies where appropriate to elicit appropriate communication. d. Responds rapidly and appropriately to the needs of the critically ill patients, their significant others and the members of the health team |
| VIII. Health Education | <p><i>Provides appropriate health education based on comprehensive learning needs of the patient and family</i></p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse makes thorough assessment of the learning needs of the patient and family for the provision of health education to assist the patient and family towards a productive life</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Assesses comprehensively the needs and learning barriers of critically-ill clients, family and their significant others b. Provides refined health education plan which is individualized and comprehensive based on the client's needs c. Demonstrates ability to develop and use appropriate learning tools for health education d. Conducts health education to significant others of the critically-ill clients with emphasis on basic concepts of the disease process e. Facilitates the thorough understanding of the critically ill client's significant others regarding the disease process and course of management to enable them to participate in the care process f. Demonstrates ability to appraise outcome of the health education g. Integrates the helping and coaching role of a nurse during expressed need of the client, his family and significant others |
| IX. Quality Improvement | Proactive in the implementation of changes as a consequence of quality | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates in-depth understanding and |

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---|
| | <p>improvement initiatives</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse demonstrates positive attitudes towards change for improvement</i></p> | <p>facilitates the achievement of the organization’s mission, vision and goals through quality improvement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b. Identifies areas for quality improvement initiatives c. Establishes effective feedback loops between the organizations, health teams, patients and significant others pertaining to quality improvement. d. Facilitates the implementation of new policies, changes in implementing rules and regulations for quality improvement. e. Utilizes available and existing data to support quality improvement initiatives. |
| X. Research | <p>Supports a positive climate for research within the practice setting</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse maintains currency of knowledge and practice based on relevant research findings</i></p> | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates active involvement in research activities b. Incorporates evidenced-base and research findings into nursing practice. c. Identifies areas of practice for which further research is indicated d. Seeks continuously to improve professional practice through research activities. |
| XI. Record Management | <p>Ensures that written information conforms to legal and ethical framework</p> <p><i>Description: The critical care nurse maintains accurate and updated documentation of the care for the critically ill patients</i></p> | <p>The ICU nurse:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Demonstrates ability to document information in a comprehensive and clear manner within the legal and ethical framework. b. Protects and safe guards the document conforming legal and ethical framework and institutional policies. c. Demonstrates effective and appropriate methods of documenting information d. Analyzes variances in the data recorded for improvement of client care |

9. STANDARDS OF CRITICAL CARE NURSING PRACTICE

Critical care specialty addresses the management and support of patients with severe or life-threatening illness. The goal of critical care nursing is to promote optimal adaptation of critically ill patients and their families by providing highly individualized care, so that the critically ill patients adapt to their physiological dysfunction as well as the psychological stress in the Critical Care Unit or Intensive Care Unit (ICU). In order to achieve this, standards should be developed to serve as a guide for monitoring and enhancing the quality of intensive care nursing practice.

Care standards for critical care nursing provides measures for determining the quality of care delivered, and also serves as means for recognizing the competencies of nurses in intensive care specialty.

Procedures standards for critical care nursing practice provide a step-by-step guideline in guiding nurses to carry out day-to-day nursing procedure in a most appropriate manner.

The following 11 are Standards are intended to furnish nurses with direction in providing quality care and excellence in Critical Care Nursing.

1. *The critical care nurse functions in accordance with legislation, common laws, organizational regulations and by-laws, which affect nursing practice.*
2. *The critical care nurse provides care to meet individual patient needs on a 24-hour basis.*
3. *The critical care nurse practices current critical care nursing competently.*
4. *The critical care nurse delivers nursing care in a way that can be ethically justified.*
5. *The critical care nurse demonstrates accountability for his/her professional judgment and actions.*
6. *The critical care nurse creates and maintains an environment which promotes safety and security of patients, visitors and staff.*
7. *The critical care nurse masters the use of all essential equipment, available services and supplies for immediate care of patients.*
8. *The critical care nurse protects patients from developing environmental induced infection.*
9. *The critical care nurse utilizes the nursing process in an explicit systematic manner to achieve the goals of care.*
10. *The critical care nurse carries out health education for promotion and maintenance of health.*
11. *The critical care nurse acts to enhance the professional development of self and others.*

The Structure-Process-Outcome model is used. Emphasis is put on management systems, nursing activities and interactions between the nurse and the care recipients, as well as the outcomes of nursing care provided.

9.1

Standard Statement 1

The critical care nurse functions in accordance with legislation, common laws, organizational regulations and by-laws, which affect nursing practice.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A copy of the Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in the Philippines established by the PRC-BON is available. 2. A copy of the Philippine Nursing Law of 2002 (RA 9173) is available. 3. A copy of the organizational regulations, policies and procedures are available. 4. A copy of the CCNAPI Guidelines for Critical Care Nursing. 5. Other Laws such as but not limited to the Patient’s Bill of Rights (PhilHealth) | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Gains access to relevant ordinances and organizational regulations. 2. Maintains current nursing registration with the Professional Regulation Commission and membership to the accredited professional organization and CCNAPI. 3. Fulfills the duty of care in accordance with the laws. 4. Practices in accordance with the organizational regulations, by-laws, policies and procedures. 5. Practices in compliance with the scope of nursing practice and the equitable duty of confidence so as to deliver nursing care in a way to safeguard the rights, privacy, well being and interests of every patient. 6. Ensures that informed consents have been obtained prior to carrying out nursing procedures and medical treatment. 7. Maintains legible, dated, signed and accurate nursing records to fulfill the legal responsibilities. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient/Family states that his/her rights are protected. 2. Patient’s privacy is not violated. 3. Patient expresses satisfaction to the quality treatment and service that he/she is lawfully entitled to. 4. Legible, dated, signed and accurate nursing records are maintained. |

9.2

Standard Statement 2

The critical care nurse provides care to meet individual patient needs on a 24-hour basis.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An explicit policy for selection of nursing staff is established. 2. A recognized manpower indicator to calculate staffing level is used. 3. Nurses with appropriate qualification to practice intensive care nursing are available at all times. 4. A contingency plan is available. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates knowledge and responsibility in line with policies and procedures stipulated by the unit. 2. Participates in the development of staffing patterns with flexibility to give optimum patient care on a 24-hour basis. 3. Practices intensive care nursing in a continuous manner | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. There is documented evidence that critically ill patients receive quality intensive nursing care in a continuous manner. 2. The staffing level is sufficient to meet daily patient care requirements. |

9.3

Standard Statement 3

The critical care nurse practices current critical care nursing competently.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The critical care nurse possesses the knowledge required for the care of the critically ill. 2. The critical care nurse has knowledge and skills in assessing patient's needs, planning, implementing and evaluating the care provided. 3. There is always a nursing expert available in the ICU. 4. There is a mechanism in place to | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Maintains standards of nursing practice and professional behavior determined by the organization requirements and Scope of Nursing Practice (RA 9173). 2. Demonstrates possession of psychomotor skills required for the care of the critically ill. 3. Shares knowledge and expertise with | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The critical care nurse demonstrates competency according to his/her experience and knowledge base. 2. There is documented evidence that care provided is individually assessed, planned, implemented and evaluated. |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>provide continuing nursing education.</p> <p>5. There is a system in place to monitor the competency level of critical care nurses.</p> | <p>others through teaching programs, clinical supervision and research activities.</p> <p>4. Demonstrates effective interpersonal skills in communicating with patients and families.</p> | |
|--|---|--|

9.4

Standard Statement 4

The critical care nurse delivers nursing care in a way that can be ethically justified.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|--|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The information regarding patient's rights and responsibilities is available for patients and families. 2. A mechanism for identification and resolution of ethical issues related to the care of the critically ill is established. 3. A copy of the Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Philippines is available. 4. Materials such as books, journals and training programs on nursing ethics are available. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Complies with the Code of Professional Conduct for Nurses in Philippines as determined by the Professional Regulation Commission. 2. Provides care with respect for patient's dignity. 3. Acts as patient advocate in terms of respecting patient's rights and interests. 4. Maintains confidentiality of information as appropriate. 5. Informs and supports patient in his/her decision making regarding his/her well-being. 6. Acknowledges honestly and limits of personal knowledge and skills and takes steps to remedy such deficits. 7. Reports perceived unethical incidents to the appropriate person. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient/Family states that his/her rights and dignity are protected. 2. Patient/Family states that he/she is adequately informed and adequately supported in decision making. 3. All perceived unethical incidents are recorded and reported. |

9.5

Standard Statement 5

The critical care nurse demonstrates accountability for his/her professional judgment and actions.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|--|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The philosophy of critical care nursing is available. 2. The unit objectives to guide nursing activities are available. 3. Policy and procedure manuals approved by the hospital are available. 4. A mechanism is available to ensure the eligibility of nursing practice. 5. An audit system to ensure safe nursing practice is established. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accepts responsibility to deliver safe nursing care to critically ill patients. 2. Take responsibility to clarify unclear instruction and question inappropriate intervention. 3. Practices within the guidelines and protocols issued by hospitals and professional organizations. 4. Audits nursing practice regularly. 5. Makes sound and independent clinical judgments based upon ongoing monitoring of critically ill patients and evidence-based practice. 6. Recognizes on level of competence and limitation; and seeks appropriate plan of self-development. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The critical care nurse demonstrates ability to justify his/her own actions and judgment. 2. No professional misconduct is reported. |

9.6

Standard Statement 6

The critical care nurse creates and maintains an environment which promotes safety and security of patients, visitors and staff.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written policies and procedures exist to minimize the risks of environmental | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implements agreed policies to | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Accidents are minimized. 2. Hazardous incidents are documented |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>hazards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. A policy exists to ensure staff knows the correct use of new equipment. 3. Copies of Occupational Safety and Health Ordinance and Regulation (OSHO & OSHR) are available. 4. A copy of the guidelines on Manual Handling Operations is in place. 5. An established mechanism exists for reporting and auditing incidents. 6. The critical care nurse is cognizant of various rules and regulations governing the use of medical appliances for caring critically ill patients. 7. Resource persons are available to the intensive care staff at all times to provide service and advice on the safe use of medical appliances. | <p>minimize the risks of environmental hazards. Such policies and procedures shall include the prevention of fire and bio-medical hazards.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Demonstrates knowledge of and responsibility for implementation of all aspects of the fire and bio-medical safety program. 3. Evaluates the effectiveness of preventive measures for controlling and counteracting the hazards periodically. 4. Ensures that the patient's safety is protected through the planning and design of the unit: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adequate space per patient bed, with allowance for potential equipment. • Adequate space for support areas. • Adequate electrical outlets. • Adequate illumination. • Adequate fire exits. • Windows, clocks, calendars • Sewage and sinks • Life-supporting systems, including medical gases, suction outlets and emergency power availability. • Emergency call system. • Auxiliary lighting system 5. Reports any environmental situation or defect, which is dangerous to patient/visitors/hospital staff. | <p>and reported.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. A safe environment for patients, visitors and hospital staff is provided and maintained. |
|--|---|--|

9.7

Standard Statement 7

The critical care nurse masters the use of all essential equipment, available services and supplies for immediate care of patients.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An inventory of essential routine and emergency equipment is established and reviewed regularly. 2. Access to service provision is stipulated. 3. Emergency equipment, medication and supplies are readily accessible. 4. Policies and guidelines for acquisition, preparation, utilization, cleaning and maintenance are available. 5. Policies for ordering, monitoring and replacing equipment, medication and supplies for the intensive care unit are in place. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Participates in mandatory equipment training ensuring safe, efficient and effective utilization. 2. Participates in establishing written policies and procedures for ordering, reordering, monitoring and replacing equipment, medication and supplies needed. 3. Reviews inventory of all equipment at regular intervals and ensures functionality through preventive maintenance program 4. Ensures that all necessary equipment and supplies are readily available at all times, and in proper working order. 5. Is familiar with the available hospital services, such as laboratory and pharmacy services during emergency situations. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Harm to patient from equipment failure is prevented. 2. Harm to patient from deficiencies of service and supply system is prevented. 3. There is written document for all equipment being checked for proper functioning on a regular basis. |

Standard Statement 8

The critical care nurse protects patients from developing environmental induced infection.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|--|---|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Written infection control policies are established. 2. Immunization programs for all critical care nurses are provided when condition warrants. 3. In-service programs regarding current infection control practice are provided. 4. Necessary protective devices are available for standard precautions. 5. Isolation facilities are provided to cohort and contain infectious outbreak. 6. A standing working group composing of staff of critical care unit and infection control unit for controlling infection is established. 7. An ongoing system for reporting, reviewing and evaluating infection incidents are established. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrates knowledge of various infectious conditions requiring isolation and precaution. 2. Adheres to the defined policies, procedures and guidelines for control of infection. 3. Reviews and revises infection control policies and procedures regularly. 4. Works collaboratively with infection control nurses for controlling infection. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The outbreak of infection is controlled. 2. The infection rate in the intensive care unit is reduced or stays low. 3. Decreased infection incidents are reported and documented. |

9.9

Standard Statement 9
 The critical care nurse utilizes the nursing process in an explicit systematic manner to achieve the goals of care.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|--|
| <p>A. Performance of Health Assessment</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Guidelines for critical care nurse to perform health assessment are available. 2. An agreed conceptual model for guiding nursing practice is available. 3. The Health Assessment form is available for documentation of patient data. 4. Experienced staffs are available to give advice on health assessment to less-experienced staff. 5. The critical care nurse possesses the knowledge and skills in performing physical examination and psycho-social assessment | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collects data on a continuous basis starting from admission. 2. Collects subjective and objective data to determine patient needs. 3. Collects data in a systematic manner to ensure completeness of assessment. 4. Uses appropriate physical examination techniques to gather data. 5. Uses effective communication skills to obtain psycho-social subjective data from patient/family. 6. Collects relevant data from previous patient record(s). 7. Documents all relevant data in the patient record. 8. Updates the database regularly and whenever necessary. 9. Ensures pertinent data are accessible to all health care team members. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individualized patient assessment is performed in an accurate, continuous and systematic manner. 2. There is documented evidence that patient’s physical, psycho-social and spiritual needs are identified. 3. The intensive care nurse is cognizant of the current condition of each patient under his/her care. 4. Patient’s data are kept up-to-date. |
| <p>B. Formulation nursing diagnoses/identifies patient problems in priority of patient’s needs</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. References to guide formulating nursing diagnoses/identifying patient problems are available. 2. Guidelines for formulating nursing diagnoses/identifying patient | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizes collected data to establish a list of actual and potential patient problems/needs. 2. Collaborates with the patient, family and other health care team members in identification of problems/needs. 3. Formulates appropriate nursing | <p>There is documented evidence that nursing diagnoses are formulated. Patient problems are identified according to priority of needs.</p> |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| <p>problems are established.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Experienced staffs are available to advise nurses in formulating nursing diagnoses/identifying patient problems. 4. The critical care nurse possesses the knowledge and skills to make accurate nursing diagnoses to identify patient problems. | <p>diagnosis relevant to the patient's condition wherein the nurse has the ability and experience to implement plan of care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Establishes the priority of problems/needs according to the actual/potential threats to the patient. 5. Records prioritized nursing diagnoses/patient problems in the patient record. 6. Updates nursing diagnoses/patient problems when patient's condition changes. | |
| <p>C. Planning for Collaboration of Care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. References and information on nursing care plans are available. 2. Experienced staff advises novice nurses in care planning when appropriate. 3. The critical care nurse possesses knowledge and skills to devise an individualized care plan pertinent to patient needs. 4. An agreed nursing care delivery model and medical treatment protocol, algorithm is available. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Develops goals for each nursing diagnosis/patient problem. 2. Plans appropriate nursing interventions in collaboration with the patient, family and other health care team members whenever necessary. 3. Devises an individualized care plan. 4. Communicates the plan with those involved. 5. Updates planned nursing actions in accordance with changes in patient health status. 6. Provides coordinated continuity of care. 7. Identifies activities through which care will be evaluated. 8. Records the nursing care plan in patient record. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient care reflects the identified patient problems/needs. 2. The planned care reflects appropriate nursing interventions. |
| <p>D. Implementation of Planned Nursing Care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The critical care nurse possesses the knowledge and skills in implementing | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Utilizes accepted principles for nursing interventions according to the | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The agreed nursing care plan is implemented. 2. A nursing intervention record for |

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>the agreed care plan.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Standards of nursing care and practice are established. 3. Experienced staffs are available to give advice on implementation of care. 4. Appropriate equipment for the implementation of the agreed care plan is available. 5. A policy to ensure the continuity of patient care is in place. | <p>dynamic environment.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Implements care according to standards and protocols. 3. Implements the planned care in collaboration with the patient, family and other health care team members. 4. Implements the planned care in an organized and humanistic manner. 5. Integrates current scientific knowledge with technical and psychomotor competency. 6. Provides care in such a way as to anticipate and to prevent complications and life-threatening situations. 7. Provides individualized and continuous care to achieve identified goals. 8. Documents interventions in patient's records. 9. Reviews and modifies interventions based on patient's progress. | <p>individual patient is kept.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The identified goals for individual patient care are achieved |
| <p>E. Evaluation of Outcome of Nursing Care</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The critical care nurse possesses the knowledge and skills to evaluate the implemented care. 2. Experienced staff advises nurses on the evaluation of delivered care are available. 3. A policy is available to evaluate patient's responses to nursing care in a continuous manner. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Collects data for evaluation within an appropriate time interval after intervention. 2. Compares the patient's responses with expected outcomes. 3. Determines the causes of significant differences between the patient's responses and the expected outcomes. 4. Reviews and revises the plan of care based on the evaluation. 5. Documents evaluation findings in patient record. | <p>The implemented care is evaluated and documented.</p> |

9.10

Standard Statement 10
 The critical care nurse carries out health education for promotion and maintenance of health.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. An education framework for intensive care setting is established. 2. An optimal learning environment is created. 3. A tool for assessing patient's/family's needs is established. 4. Plans for promoting and maintaining health are devised. 5. The critical care nurse possesses competency in the provision of health education. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Modifies health teaching strategies according to patients /family's literacy level. 2. Assesses patient's/family's learning ability or any barriers to learning. 3. Establishes good rapport with patient and family. 4. Assists patient in setting short-term and long-term goals for the promotion and maintenance of health. 5. Plans and implements individualized health educational activities. 6. Provides educational information for patient and family in promotion and maintenance of health. 7. Facilitates patient's/family's ability to comply with the health education provided. 8. Documents the teaching-learning progress. 9. Evaluates the effectiveness of health teaching and modifies the approach if necessary. | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient demonstrates a positive attitude towards health promotion and health maintenance. 2. There is documented evidence that patient/family understands the health education material. |

9.11

Standard Statement 11

The critical care nurse acts to enhance the professional development of self and others.

| STRUCTURE CRITERIA | PROCESS CRITERIA | OUTCOME CRITERIA |
|---|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A system to offer nurses the opportunity for continual professional development is established. 2. An objective performance appraisal system is available. 3. Professional journals and textbooks related to critical care nursing are available. 4. A mechanism to facilitate career progression program is available. | <p>The critical care nurse:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Sets and reviews objectives for professional development at regular intervals. 2. Participates in continuing educational programs to update intensive care knowledge and skills. 3. Contributes to professional development through teaching activities and clinical supervision. 4. Participates in conducting clinical research and application of evidence-based nursing practice. 5. Participates and promotes the activities of professional nursing organizations. 6. Demonstrates interest in pursuing advanced critical care nursing practice | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Patient receives quality nursing care based on current scientific knowledge and research findings. 2. The critical care nurse completes continuing nursing education programs and demonstrates commitment in further professional advancement. 3. Expertise in intensive care nursing is developed and respected by others. |