

〔シンポジウム：実践からの構築を目指して〕

4. Advanced Practice Nursing in the United States : The Family Nurse Practitioner (特別発言)

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In the United States, advanced practice nursing (APN) has grown slowly over the last 30 years, but had its roots in the early roles of the nurse anesthetist and the nurse midwife in the mid-1800s. The movement of nursing education away from apprentice training into academic settings in the 1950s opened up greater opportunities for advanced education and practice. Since the beginning of the first nurse practitioner (NP) program in 1965, positive research results for patient care by NPs, and large government educational grants have encouraged further program development. Now, nearly all NP programs are at the master's or post-master's certificate level, and include two years of comprehensive theory courses and 700 hours of clinical practice.

In 1992, the American Nurse's Association (ANA) selected the title, "Advanced Practice Nursing," to include the four advanced nursing specialties, nurse practitioner, nurse midwife, clinical nurse specialist and nurse anesthetist. The Family Nurse Practitioner (FNP) is an advanced practice nurse who provides primary care to patients and their families.

Primary care, the first contact of the patient and family in the health care system, includes holistic care for health promotion, prevention of disease and disability, health maintenance, and rehabilitation. The FNP in this role, identifies, manages and follows up health problems of a caseload of patients and their families in all of the different health care settings including acute care and community. More specifically, they do: health histories and physical examinations; diagnose and treat acute and chronic illnesses; order, perform and interpret diagnostic tests; prescribe medications and other treatments; provide prenatal care and family planning services; provide well-child care; provide health maintenance for adults; and collaborate with other health care professionals. The FNP can provide 60% to 80% of the care traditionally done by physicians, often at a lower cost. Many have created innovative health delivery systems across the country. High consumer satisfaction surveys and structural/economic health care changes have continued to increase the demand for the role of FNPs.