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# The Evolution of Licensure, Certification and Nursing Organization

## Chapter Three

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Nursing 50

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Topics for today:

- \*Nurse Practice Act & State Board of Nursing
- \*Licensure
- \*Certification
- \*Nursing organizations

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### Nurse Practice Act

- is the state legislation regulating the practice of nurses that protects the public and makes nurses accountable for their actions
- establishes the *state Board of Nursing* and its power
- rules and regulations written by the Boards become *statutory laws* under the powers of the state legislature

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### State Board of Nursing

- \*grant licenses
- \*accredit nursing programs
- \*establish standards for nursing schools
- \*write specific regulations for nursing in that particular state
- \*deny or revoke license



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### Registration

- def'n: listing of individuals on an official roster who have met certain per-established criteria
- Florence Nightingale was the first to establish a formal register for graduates of her nursing school
- US/ Canada- 1896- credentialling system initiated by the Association Alumni of US/ Canada

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### Licensure

- began in 1904
- ensures that nurses can function at a *minimal* level of competency and safety
- each state is given enforcement powers by their regulatory boards to protect public health, safety and welfare (to maintain professional standards)

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### Types of Licensure

- Permissive- allows individuals to practice nursing as long as they do not use the 'RN' title (protects the title, not the practice)
- Mandatory- requires anyone who wants to practice nursing to pass a licensure exam and b/c registered by the SBN (State Board of Nursing)

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### Types of Licensure

- Institutional- individual institutions are permitted to determine which individuals are qualified to practice within general guidelines established by an outside board
- By endorsement- nurses who move from one state to another can obtain this form of licensure by having the state recognize their license from the original state (reciprocity d/t NCLEX)

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'Mutual Recognition Model' of licensure is being developed to allow licensed nurses to practice in multiple states without seeking additional licensure

What might hold this back?



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### Advanced Practice

Certification is a legal requirement for practice at the APN (advanced practice nurse) level (eg. NP, CNS, nurse midwives)

There is no uniformity among states in the recognition of certification of APN (although, national certification is now making this more uniform)

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### Nursing Organizations and Their Importance

- the *establishment of a professional organization* is one of the most important defining characteristics of a profession
- nurses need and use power in every aspect of their professional life.
- organizations ↑ power!



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### Nursing Organizations

- NLN: purpose- to maintain & improve the standards of nursing ed. (accredit schools of nursing thru self-study)
- AACCN: purpose- to help colleges with schools of nursing work together to improve the standards for higher ed. for 'professional' nursing (accredit BSN schools)
- ANA: purpose- to improve standards of health and access to healthcare for everyone, improve & maintain standards for nursing practice & promote the professional G & D of all nurses

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### Nursing Organizations

- NSNA: purpose- maintain high standards of ed. in schools of nursing
- ICN: purpose- improve health and nursing care throughout the world
- Sigma Theta Tau: honorary organization estab. in colleges and universities to recognize individuals who have demo'd leadership or made contributions to professional nursing. Support nursing research, educational conferences, etc

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### Nursing Organizations

- Grassroots Organizations: usually form to try to solve a particular problem (CNA- splintered from ANA because it was not addressing important state issues)
- Special Interest Organizations: for groups of nurses with similar concerns (Red Cross, OR/ ER nurse groups, National Hispanic Nurses, Black Nurses Association, Catholic Nurses Association)

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See you next class.....

Please do your readings & bring thoughtful questions!



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