

 <p>Connecticut Valley Hospital Nursing Policy and Procedure</p>	<p>SECTION A: NURSING SERVICE ORGANIZATION CHAPTER 2: STANDARDS OF NURSING PRACTICE AND CARE</p> <p>Policy and Procedure: 2.7 American Nurses Association Forensic Services Professional Practice Standards</p>
<p>Authorization: Nursing Executive Committee</p>	<p>Date Effective: May 1, 2018 Scope: Connecticut Valley Hospital</p>

Standard I Assessment

The forensic nurse shall provide an accurate assessment, based upon data collected, of the physical and/or psychological issues of the client as related to forensic nursing and/or forensic pathology.

Rationale

Assessment is a series of systematic, organized, and deliberate actions to identify and obtain data. This assessment provides the data base for the determination of the forensic applications to the client.

Outcome

Forensic nursing assessment will be done for every client.

Component Standard

Assessment shall include systematic and pertinent collection of data about the forensic status of the client.

Measurement Criteria

1. Data shall be obtained as determined by the forensic client's immediate needs.
2. The forensic nurse conducts the client assessment within the framework of holistic professional nursing practice which is inclusive of physical and psychological issues achieved within the client interview, observation and assessment.

3. The forensic nurse performs the initial assessment in a timely manner. Ongoing assessments are based on the specific conditions of the forensic issues.
4. The forensic nurse records significant data as appropriate to the nature and extent of the injury, situation or practice area.
5. The forensic nurse follows the chain of custody as indicated.
6. The forensic nurse has ongoing communication regarding significant data as it relates to the appropriate persons throughout the judicial process to facilitate the determination of a forensic diagnosis.
7. The forensic nurse maintains appropriate confidentiality of records where appropriate, while ensuring that all relevant records are promptly and properly transferred to appropriate persons or institutions as required.

Standard II. Diagnosis

The forensic nurse shall analyze the assessment data to determine a diagnosis pertaining to forensic issues in nursing.

Rationale

Analyses of data provide the basis for planning timely and effective forensic nursing interventions.

Outcome

A systematic process of assessment and data analysis is reflected in appropriate diagnosis and decisions making pertaining to forensic issues in nursing.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse shall determine a diagnosis pertaining to forensic nursing issues for whom they provide care and/or services.

Measurement Criteria

1. Diagnosis of forensic issues in nursing are based on identifiable data.
2. The forensic nurse identifies those diagnoses that are consistent with the findings of other forensic health care, law enforcement, and judicial professionals that will facilitate a controlled pathway throughout the judicial process.
3. Diagnoses of forensic assessments in a nursing services are consistent with the accepted current bodies of knowledge.
4. The forensic nurse analyzes evidence as appropriate to the area of practice.

Standard III. Outcome Identification

The forensic nurse will identify expected individual outcomes based on the forensic diagnoses of the client.

Rationale

Individualized outcomes provide direction for continuity of services and increased collaborative efforts between all disciplines in the management of clients

Outcome

An individualized outcome is formulated for every identified diagnosis.

Component Standard

Outcomes shall show that all efforts point toward effective services and case coordination and communication in managing forensic clients.

Measurement Criteria

1. Outcomes pertaining to forensic diagnoses are derived from the data.
2. Outcomes are formulated with the client and multidisciplinary team members when possible.
3. Forensic outcomes are attainable in relation to resources available to the client.
4. Forensic outcomes include a time estimate and are documented as measurable goals, if applicable.

Standard IV. Planning

The forensic nurse develops a comprehensive plan of action for the forensic client appropriate to forensic interventions to attain expected outcomes.

Rationale

Safe and effective forensic nursing planning results from active intervention on the part of the forensic nurse as a member of the multidisciplinary team.

Outcome

Evidence of a plan of action exists for forensic issues.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse shall develop and utilize a stand plan of action to provide consistency concerning forensic nursing issues.

Measurement Criteria

1. The plan of action identifies and prioritizes the forensic nursing actions, client outcomes, and goals individualized to the forensic nursing issues.
2. The plan of action is developed with a collaborative perspective toward a multidisciplinary approach involving the client, family members, significant others, health care members, and other disciplines as appropriate by utilizing the client's assessment, interviews, and ongoing evaluations
3. The plan of action reflects current nursing practice in the forensic nursing arena.
4. The plan of action is documented, as appropriate.
5. The plan of action provides for continuity of care by incorporating forensic teaching and learning principals into the overall plan of care.

Standard V. Implementation

The forensic nurse implements a plan of action based on forensic issues derived from assessment data, nursing diagnoses, and medical diagnoses, when applicable, and scientific knowledge.

Rationale

A base of scientific and conceptual knowledge of nursing science, forensic science and criminal justice in addition to assessment data, provides a foundation for a plan to be implemented in a timely and effective manner.

Outcome

Forensic nursing interventions that reflect a collaborative consideration of the client and significant other, if applicable, are performed in a safe and effective manner. They are consistent with the plan and are documented by written record as applicable.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse shall function independently within the parameters established for professional nursing practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. Documentation reflects competent skill performance and sound judgement in autonomous practice.
2. Standardized care plans pertaining to forensic diagnoses are developed and available for use, if applicable.
3. Modifications and deviations from standard plans of action are noted and documented with supporting data, if applicable.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse shall function collaboratively within a multidisciplinary team, combining health care with criminal justice and law enforcement agencies and other resources to implement a prescribed regime within the scope of professional nursing practice.

Standard VI. Evaluation

The forensic nurse evaluates and modifies the plan of action to achieve expected outcomes.

Rationale

Evaluation of forensic nursing services must be based on all outcomes as specified by the goals in the plan of action

Outcome

Forensic data are evaluated concurrently and retrospectively to ensure that an acceptable quality of services provided is obtained and maintained.

Component Standard

Forensic nursing services are evaluated on a continuous basis to determine progress or lack of progress toward goal attainment.

Measurement Criteria

1. Evaluation is systematic and ongoing.
2. Evaluation is used to revise forensic nursing diagnoses, outcomes, and the plan of action is needed.
3. The client's response to intervention of the forensic issues relating to the situation is documented, as appropriate.
4. Revisions in the plan, diagnoses, and outcomes are documented, when appropriate.
5. The client, family members, significant others, and multidisciplinary team members are involved in the evaluation process when appropriate.

STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCE

Standard I. Quality of Care

The forensic nurse systematically evaluates the quality and effectiveness of forensic nursing practice.

Rationale

Evaluation of forensic nursing practice must be based on observable client outcomes as appropriate to the forensic nurse's position, education, and practice environment to assure quality forensic nursing practice.

Outcome

Forensic nursing practice is evaluated concurrently and retrospectively to ensure that the quality of practice is maintained.

Component Standard

A comprehensive plan for quality assurance of forensic nursing practice shall be developed and implemented.

Measurement Criteria

1. Identified problems or deficiencies are carefully reviewed and evaluated to monitor the quality and effectiveness of forensic nursing practice, as appropriate.
2. Data are collected concerning forensic issues in nursing practice and evaluated according to the effectiveness of such practice, as appropriate.
3. Analysis of data is performed to identify opportunities for service improvement, as appropriate.
4. Recommendations are made to improve the quality of forensic nursing services or client outcomes, as appropriate.
5. Activities that enhance the quality of forensic nursing practice are implemented, as appropriate.
6. Policies and procedures reflecting forensic issues in nursing are developed to improve the quality of services provided, as appropriate.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse utilizes the results of quality assurance activities to initiate changes in practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. Identification of indicators are used to monitor forensic nursing practice.
2. Standardized plans of care on forensic nursing issues are developed and validated using the results of quality assurance activities as appropriate to the practice area.

Standard II. Performance Appraisal

The forensic nurse evaluates his/her own forensic nursing practice in relation to professional practice standards and relevant statutes and regulations.

Rationale

Safe and effective forensic nursing practice depends on the retention and application of a specified body of knowledge and skills that are developed over time. The primary purpose is to provide a systematic method of documenting and validating specific activities that reflect the forensic dimensions and responsibilities of the forensic nurse.

Outcome

Collaborative and autonomous forensic nursing practice that reflects forensic nursing and research is provided to all forensic clients as appropriate.

Component Standard

The evaluation of individual performance as measured against the duties and responsibilities of the forensic nursing job description is a continuous process.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse engages in performance appraisal on a regular basis identifying areas of strengths as well as areas of professional/practice development.
2. The forensic nurse seeks constructive feedback regarding his/her own practice.
3. The forensic nurse takes action to achieve goals identified during the performance appraisal.
4. The forensic nurse participates in peer review as appropriate.

Standard III. Education

The forensic nurse acquires and maintains current knowledge in forensic nursing practice.

Rationale

In the process of continuing education, there is not only the responsibility of one's own learning, but also the integration of that learning into daily practice.

Outcome

The knowledge and skills of forensic nursing are demonstrated and shared in daily practice.

Component Standard

Forensic nurses shall obtain ongoing education consistent with their level and area of practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse participates in ongoing educational activities related to clinical knowledge and professional issues.
2. The forensic nurse seeks experience to maintain competence.
3. The forensic nurse seeks knowledge and skills appropriate to the practice setting.

Standard IV. Collegiality

The forensic nurse contributes to the professional development of peers, colleagues and others.

Rationale

Teaching facilitates the provision of information about the role and responsibilities of forensic nursing and the provision of services provided to forensic clients.

Outcome

The sharing of learned knowledge with others assists forensic nurses in identifying and meeting their own learning needs to maximize professional development and optimal forensic nursing practice.

Component Standard

Forensic nurses shall facilitate formal and informal learning experiences for professional peers, colleagues and others.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse shares knowledge and skills with colleagues and others in a multidisciplinary educational effort, as appropriate.

2. The forensic nurse provides peers with constructive feedback regarding their practice involving forensic issues.
3. The forensic nurse participates in teaching nursing students and colleagues regarding role responsibilities, policies, procedures and forensic practice, when applicable.

Standard V. Ethics

The forensic nurse's decisions and actions are determined in an ethical manner.

Rationale

Beliefs in human worth comprise the philosophical foundation on which forensic nursing is based.

Outcome

The practice of forensic nursing is consistent with the ANA Code of Ethics For Nurses.

Component Standard

Forensic nurses shall demonstrate an awareness and adherence of local, state and federal laws governing their practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse follows chain of custody when obtaining evidence and/or specimens for forensic purposes.
2. The forensic nurse maintains and preserves any evidence collected.
3. The forensic nurse follows chain of custody when turning over evidentiary material.
4. The forensic nurse reports appropriately according to local, state and federal mandates.
5. The forensic nurse obtains appropriate informed consent for evidence collection, procedures, treatment, or photography as appropriate.
6. The forensic nurse informs clients of their legal rights as required, in collaboration with appropriate individuals.
7. The forensic nurse maintains client confidentiality, where appropriate.
8. The forensic nurse seeks available resources related to legal and ethical issues for the forensic client.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse delivers services in a non-judgmental and non-discriminatory manner that is sensitive to client diversity.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse respects the individuality and human worth of forensic clients regardless of age, sexual orientation , socioeconomic status, cultural or ethical background or spiritual beliefs.
2. The forensic nurse delivers services in a manner that respects the dignity, confidentiality and privacy of forensic clients, where appropriate.

Standard VI. Collaboration

The forensic nurse collaborates with the forensic client, family members, significant others and multidisciplinary team members.

Rationale

The forensic nurse is non-judgmental and facilitates communication between the client, family members, significant others, and the legal and judicial system.

Outcome

The forensic nurse promotes open communication among multidisciplinary team members to ensure the occurrence of effective forensic interventions.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse communicates with the client, family members, significant others, and multidisciplinary team members regarding services provided.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse involves the client, family and significant others as appropriate, in decision making processes related to the forensic issues.

Component Standard

Forensic nurses participate in formal and informal investigative methodology related to forensic issues and the community.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse collaborates with other members of the multidisciplinary team, as appropriate, to provide services throughout the judicial system.
2. The forensic nurse collaborates with those practicing within the judicial system as necessary, to ensure that judicial procedure is maintained within the scope of the issues involving the client.
3. Diagnoses of forensic issues are documented and reflect a collaborative approach to the delivery of services.
4. The forensic nurse communicates with multidisciplinary team members as appropriate regarding forensic issues.
5. Collaboration with multidisciplinary team members is done to evaluate forensic nursing practice.
6. The forensic nurse communicates with and participates as a member of a multidisciplinary team.

Standard VII. Research

The forensic nurse recognizes, values and utilizes research as a method to further forensic nursing practice.

Rationale

Research is necessary to develop a body of validated forensic nursing knowledge on which forensic nursing is based.

Outcome

The forensic nurse makes improvements in the quality of forensic nursing practice administered.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse shall utilize those interventions substantiated by research to improve forensic nursing practice.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse utilizes current knowledge of research in forensic nursing practice.
2. The forensic nurse implements changes in practice based upon forensic nursing research.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse participates in research activities as appropriate to the practitioner's position, education and practice environment.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse possesses the skills necessary to conduct research, as appropriate.
2. The forensic nurse participates in ongoing projects by identification of problems pertaining to forensic issues.
3. The forensic nurse collaborates with colleagues in their research within the practice setting.

Standard VIII. Resource Utilization

The forensic nurse considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, and cost in planning and delivering forensic services.

Rationale

Safe and effective forensic nursing practice results from active planning on the part of the forensic nurse in identifying and securing cost effective resources available to address forensic issues.

Outcome

Evidence of planning and delivery of safe and effective forensic nursing practice is documented.

Component Standard

The forensic nurse considers factors related to safety, effectiveness, and cost, based on the needs of the forensic client.

Measurement Criteria

1. The forensic nurse evaluates forensic nursing practice for safety and cost, with a collaborative outlook toward a multidisciplinary approach involving the client, significant others, and other disciplines as appropriate.
2. The forensic nurse delegates services based on the needs of the client and the knowledge and skills of the provider.
3. The forensic nurse makes modifications to services provided as necessary in securing appropriate resources for the client.