

Critical Care Nursing Practice: Promoting Excellence Through Caring, Competence, and Commitment

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Value of Certification

Value to the Patient and Family
Value to Employers
Value to Nurses

Evidence-Based Practice in Critical Care Nursing

Barriers to Implementation
Strategies to Promote Implementation

Healthy Work Environments

Skilled Communication
True Collaboration
Effective Decision Making
Appropriate Staffing
Meaningful Recognition
Authentic Leadership

The Synergy Model

Future Challenges in Critical Care Nursing

Objectives

Based on the content in this chapter, the reader will be able to:

- 1 Describe the value of certification in critical care nursing.
- 2 Describe the value of evidence-based practice in caring for critically ill patients.
- 3 Discuss the value of collaborative practice in critical care.
- 4 Provide examples of how the Synergy Model can promote positive patient outcomes.
- 5 Discuss future issues facing critical care nursing practice.

As the health care delivery system continues to evolve and transform, so too does the discipline of nursing and the specialty of critical care nursing. Today, the care of critically ill patients occurs not only in the traditional setting of the hospital intensive care unit (ICU) but also on the progressive care unit, the medical unit, and the surgical unit, as well as in the subacute facility, the community, and the home. Since the first critical care unit opened in the late 1960s,

significant technological, procedural, and pharmacological advances have occurred, accompanied by a knowledge explosion in critical care nursing. Consequently, critical care nurses of the 21st century are routinely caring for the complex, critically ill patient, integrating sophisticated technology with the accompanying psychosocial challenges and ethical conflicts associated with critical illness while addressing the needs and concerns of the family.