

# Holistic Nursing

3rd edition

## Scope and Standards of Practice



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American Nurses Association  
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This ANA publication reflects the thinking of the holistic specialty nurses on various issues and should be reviewed in conjunction with state board of nursing policies and practices. State law, rules, and regulations govern the practice of rheumatology nursing, while *Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, Third Edition*, guides nurses in the application of their professional knowledge, skills, and abilities.

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The work of many provided the foundation for *Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2013) and its evolution into this, the third edition (2017). These are cited in Appendix A and throughout the document. The task force members are grateful for these contributions, including those of Carla Mariano, EdD, RN, AHN-BC, FAAIM, for the first edition (2007) and the second edition (2013). Without this previous work, our latest edition would not be possible.

There were numerous individuals and AHNA committees who provided documents and input along the way. In particular, these task forces and review committees contributed the following documents:

- *Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* (2007, 2013)
- *Standards of Holistic Nursing Practice* (2005)
- *Standards of Advanced Holistic Practice for Graduate-Prepared Nurses* (2005)



- American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC) *Core Essentials for the Practice of Basic Holistic Nursing* (2012)
- American Holistic Nurses Credentialing Corporation (AHNCC) *Core Essentials for the Practice of Advanced Holistic Nursing* (2012)
- AHNA Position Statements and White Papers
- AHNA Research Committee, Annotated Bibliographies (2016)

Other key contributors: Leadership Councils, Board of Directors and Staff of the American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA), Charlotte McGuire, and the founding members of the AHNA. Also, the numerous holistic nurses throughout the years who have contributed to the body of holistic nursing knowledge and advancement of the specialty of holistic nursing in practice, research, education, certification, administration, advocacy, and healthcare

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### **About the American Holistic Nurses Association**

The American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA) is a nonprofit specialty nursing organization that is open to nurses and other individuals interested in holistically oriented healthcare practices throughout the United States and the world. AHNA is the definitive voice for holistic nursing and supports the education of nurses, allied health practitioners, and the general public on health-related issues and the concepts of holism: a state of harmony among body, mind, emotions, and spirit within an ever-changing environment.

### **About the American Nurses Association**

The American Nurses Association (ANA) is the only full-service professional organization representing the interests of the nation's 3.6 million registered nurses through its constituent/state nurses' associations and its organizational affiliates. The ANA advances the nursing profession by fostering high standards of nursing practice, promoting the rights of nurses in the workplace, projecting a positive and realistic view of nursing, and by lobbying the Congress and regulatory agencies on healthcare issues affecting nurses and the public.



# Introduction

The nursing profession and healthcare arena continue to evolve and expand. The purpose of this document is to articulate the scope and standards of the specialty practice of holistic nursing and to inform holistic nurses, the nursing profession, other healthcare providers and disciplines, employers, third-party payers, legislators, and the public about the unique scope of knowledge and the standards of practice and professional performance of a holistic nurse.

*Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 3rd Edition* (2018), is a foundational document for holistic nursing practice, theory, research, education, advocacy, and certification, and serves as a valuable resource for all levels of holistic nursing education (undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education).

## Function of the Scope of Practice Statement of Holistic Nursing

The scope of practice statement describes the *who, what, where, when, why, and how* of the practice of holistic nursing. The answers to these questions provide a picture of the dynamic and complex practice of holistic nursing, its evolving boundaries, and its members.

*Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 3rd Edition* (ANA, 2015b) applies to all professional registered nurses engaged in practice, regardless of specialty, practice setting, or educational preparation. With the *Code of Ethics for Nurses With Interpretative Statements* (ANA, 2015a) and *Nursing's Social Policy Statement: The Essence of the Profession* (ANA, 2010), it forms the foundation of practice for all registered nurses. The scope of holistic nursing practice is specific to this specialty, but it builds on the scope of practice expected of all registered nurses.

## Function of the Standards of Holistic Nursing

“The Scope of Practice Statement is accompanied by the Standards of Professional Nursing Practice. The standards are authoritative statements of

the duties that all registered nurses, regardless of role, population, or specialty, are expected to perform competently. The standards published herein may serve as evidence of the standard of care, with the understanding that application of the standards depends on context. The standards are subject to change with the dynamics of the nursing profession, as new patterns of professional practice are developed and accepted by the nursing profession and the public. In addition, specific conditions and clinical circumstances may also affect the application of the standards at a given time” (ANA, 2015b, p. 3). Specifically, “a professional organization has a responsibility to its members and to the public it serves to develop scope and standards of practice for its profession” (ANA, 2015b, p. 1). The standards of holistic nursing practice are specific to this specialty but build on the standards of practice expected of all registered nurses.

## **Function of Competencies Accompanying Standards of Holistic Nursing**

A *competency* is “[a]n expected level of performance that integrates knowledge, skills, abilities, and judgment” (ANA, 2015b, p. 44). The competencies that accompany each standard in this book are evidence of compliance with the corresponding standard. The list of competencies is not exhaustive and may depend on circumstances or context.

## **Development of the Holistic Nursing Standards of Practice: Basic and Advanced**

The American Holistic Nurses Association (AHNA) first developed *Standards of Holistic Nursing Practice* in 1990. In 2006, holistic nursing was officially recognized by the American Nurses Association (ANA) as a distinct specialty within nursing. The first edition of *Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice* was jointly published by the AHNA and ANA in 2007; the 2nd edition was published in 2013. [See Appendix A. *Holistic Nursing Scope and Standards of Practice, 2nd edition* (2013)].

## **Summary**

*Holistic Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice, 3rd Edition* (2018), reflects a consensus of the most current thinking in the specialty and provides a blueprint for holistic nursing philosophy, theory, principles, education, research, and practices. It incorporates the fundamental philosophical beliefs, theories, and practices as well as new developments and advancements in the field of holistic nursing. It is a foundational resource for holistic nursing and a key resource for certification in holistic nursing. The Standards guide clinicians, educators, researchers, nurse leaders, and administrators in professional