

Analysis of Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) Qualifications, Competencies, and Scope of Practice in Preparation for Utilization in Disasters in Louisiana

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Background

Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN)

- licensed registered nurse
- completed an accredited graduate level education program preparing the individual in one or more APRN role and population foci
- certified by a nationally recognized certifying body in one or more role and population focus; meet LSBN criteria
- functional roles:
 - » Nurse Practitioner (NP)
 - » Certified Nurse Midwife (CNM)
 - » Clinical Nurse Specialist (CNS)
 - » Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA







Background Continued

- Hurricanes Katrina & Rita (2005) no license portability for out-of-state APRNs
- 2007: Louisiana State Board of Nursing (LSBN) addresses the issue via Rules: §3328 Disaster Relief Permits
- Hurricanes Gustav & Ike (2008) Out-of-State APRNs have difficulty finding a collaborating MD
- APRN role in disaster preparedness is still not well defined







Purpose

To analyze APRN qualifications, competencies, scope of practice and utilization to propose policy change that ameliorate the shortage of APRN providers during disasters

What does the literature say???



What does the APRN competencies Say?? (NONPF, NACNS, AANA/COA & ACNM)?





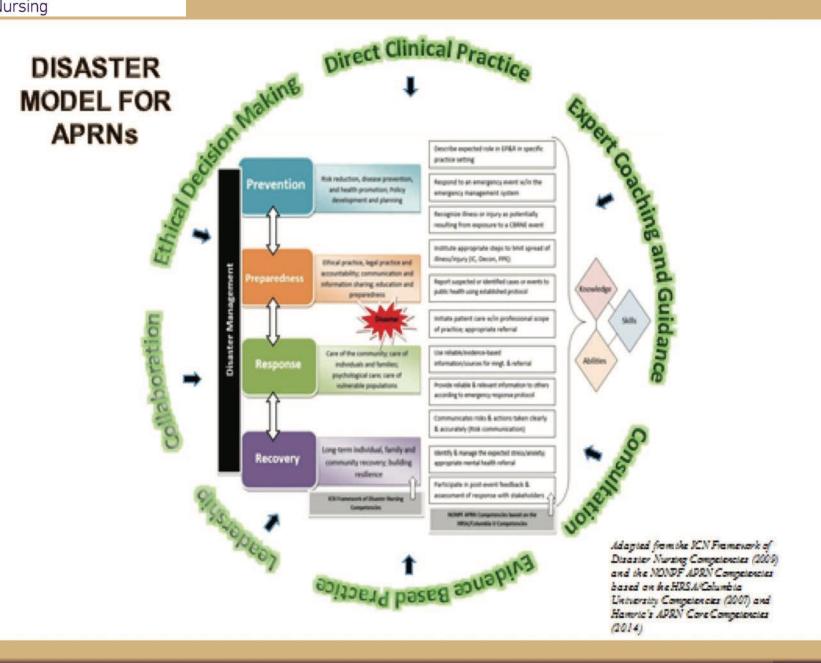


All 7 Competencies are evident in all 4 phases – some more prominent

- **DIRECT CLINICAL PRACTICE** (acute response and recovery maintenance of services)
- GUIDANCE AND COACHING (prevention, preparedness and response)
- **CONSULTATION** (prevention, response and recovery)
- EVIDENCE BASED PRACTICE (EBP) (preparedness and response)
- LEADERSHIP (prevention, preparedness and response)
- COLLABORATION (preparedness, response and recovery)
- ETHICAL DECISION MAKING (preparedness and response)













Policy Implications

- Existing policy was analyzed to include current state and national legislation, as well as LSBN Rules & Regulations to ascertain the legal implications and potential regulatory issues for non-Louisiana licensed APRNs to enter into the state to engage in disaster response. No legislative action required.
- Revision of LSBN Rules & Regulations §3328
 Disaster Relief Permits to address non-LA licensed
 APRNs (LSBN Approved 4/30/14). Was published in the Louisiana Register August 20, 2014.







Recommendations

- One defined scope of practice for APRNs
- Development of standardized, formal emergency preparedness, response and recovery educational core competencies with competency-based objective evaluation is critical
- Policy analysis before disaster strikes
- Model rules or legislation for disasters (all-hazards)
- APRNs must encourage and emulate personal and professional preparedness
- Further research is needed in disaster nursing for APRNs







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