

**SECOND
EDITION**

ISSUES and TRENDS in NURSING

**PRACTICE, POLICY,
AND LEADERSHIP**

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Preface

From its origins, nursing was described by Florence Nightingale as a distinct discipline concerned with the relationship between the patient, nurse, and environment. Nightingale defined nursing as having “charge of the personal health of somebody. . .and what nursing has to do. . .is to put the patient in the best condition for nature to act upon him” (1859/1992, p. 75). Nursing has advanced as a scientific discipline, with a wide scope of responsibility as a goal-directed and evidence-based practice within a complex healthcare system. The goal of health and “putting the patient in the best condition for nature to act” require the nurse to address a constantly expanding body of knowledge, technology, and sociocultural change. It is with this challenge in mind that the first edition of this textbook was originally created. This second edition continues to address the challenges facing nurses with updated and newly added chapters on contemporary nursing and healthcare topics. The graduating nurse must understand the complicated context of the issues that affect the nurse–patient relationship including political policy, professional organizations, safety and other performance outcomes, emergency preparedness, and global health issues, to name a few.

Although many different viewpoints of nursing theory have been debated, there is general agreement on the domains of nursing. Fawcett concluded there is a consensus about the central concepts of the discipline—person, environment, health, and nursing. These concepts constitute nursing’s metaparadigm (Fawcett, 1989). Therefore, the concepts of nursing, environment, person, and health were selected to form the organizational units of this textbook. The chapter topics do indeed aggregate into these four concepts, lending validity to the umbrella of the metaparadigm to describe the essence of nursing.

Unit I addresses *The Nursing Profession*, beginning with a discussion of the historical origins of nursing with emphasis on the history and development of the nursing profession in the United States. Nursing education is also addressed with a description of the various educational nursing programs that exist within the profession and a focused discussion on contemporary issues impacting nursing education curricula. Other chapter topics in Unit I identify the essential information a graduating nurse needs to know to be socialized into the profession including preparing for the NCLEX-RN examination, understanding professional licensure and regulation, developing professionally through membership in professional nursing organizations, and transitioning into practice as a new registered nurse.

Unit II focuses on *The Environment and Nursing Practice*. To be safe and effective practitioners, nurses must fully understand and appreciate the complexity of the healthcare environment within which they practice. Having systematized knowledge about safety, research, and the regulatory mechanisms in health care is essential for nurses to produce safe, cost-effective, and evidence-based patient health outcomes. The chapters within Unit II address current trends and issues existing within the healthcare environment including the movement toward a culture of interprofessional practice; safety, quality, and performance outcomes in the workplace; disaster preparedness; and evidence-based practice. Acknowledging the importance of achieving a healthy work–life balance, the personal responsibility of the nurse in maintaining a balanced and healthy lifestyle across one’s career is also addressed in a chapter to this edition of the text.

In Unit III, *The Person in Health Care*, the patient becomes the focus of discussion. Maintaining a caring relationship with the patient that facilitates health and healing requires the nurse to be socially conscious. Sociocultural changes in the United States, increasing numbers of clients without insurance, bioethical dilemmas, legal directives, the Affordable Care Act, and federal and state policy embody an infrastructure for the person seeking health care. The increasing cultural diversity of the United States’ population and rising numbers of vulnerable patients requiring access to health care has multiple implications for nurses in their role as patient advocates. The legal and ethical issues related to nursing care are discussed with an emphasis on the nurse’s advocacy role in ensuring attention to the legal and ethical rights of clients.

Unit IV addresses *Health and Nursing Issues*. Risk factors and health issues related to care of individuals in rural, urban, and global settings are important considerations for nurses. Informatics and health information technology are increasingly influential in delivering effective, high-quality health care, thus requiring nurses to be knowledgeable and competent in understanding how technology affects their daily practice. Nurses are also personally accountable for increasing their understanding of emerging disciplines, an example of which is genomics. All nurses need to incorporate nursing genomic competencies into their practice regardless of practice setting and this text edition has added a chapter addressing this topic that will only continue to grow in importance in coming years.

The four units provide a wealth of information that prepare the graduate to transition into nursing and confidently face the challenges of the future of the nursing profession. The essentials of information given in each chapter are intended to provide the undergraduate nursing student with the necessary details to think critically about issues and trends in nursing, engage in relationships with patients within an informed context of the issues and their environment, and create therapeutic plans to improve health outcomes. The editors and authors are sensitive to

the fact that this text is one of a multitude of resources that is needed to achieve excellence in nursing.

The editors, authors, and Jones & Bartlett Learning staff have shared their expertise as a commitment to nursing education. We hope the contributions of this textbook are a valuable component of your knowledge development, making a significant difference in how you think about and practice nursing.

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