



SYNERGY FOR CLINICAL EXCELLENCE

THE AACN SYNERGY MODEL FOR PATIENT CARE

SECOND EDITION

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DEDICATION

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PREFACE

This book is a tribute to all the acute and critical care nurses who serve patients worldwide. It is based upon decades of work by the American Association of Critical-Care Nurses (AACN) in the development of a conceptual framework for nursing practice: The AACN Synergy Model. The purpose of this book is to provide nurses with the clinical knowledge needed to apply the Synergy Model in practice and to help prepare nurses for certification examinations offered by AACN. Significant additions were made to this edition of the book. As the model's use has grown exponentially in a number of arenas, chapters have been added to demonstrate how the model is applicable in the non-intensive care setting. For example, chapters on integration of the Synergy Model in the perioperative and ambulatory settings have been added. This edition also has chapters that illustrate application of the Model to the practice setting, nursing administration, research, nursing orientation programs, and as a basis for a Doctor of Nursing Practice project, creating a patient acuity system, and for obtaining Magnet[®] designation by the American Nurses Credentialing Center. A chapter was written to tie the Synergy Model to the APRN Consensus Model. This text can be utilized in a nursing course that focuses on nursing theory and conceptual frameworks. The chapters with practice questions have also been expanded in this edition of the book. There are seven chapters with practice questions for certification examinations to help prepare exam candidates.

Chapter 1 presents a brief history of the development of the model and the patient and nurse characteristics inherent in the Synergy Model. The first chapter in Section I serves as a foundation for understanding the application of the concepts in each of the chapters that follow. Section II provides in-depth chapters focusing on each patient characteristic in the model with application to patient situations to further explicate the use of the model in practice. Section III consists of chapters focused on the nurse characteristics with applications to practice. Section IV consists of chapters that illustrate how the Synergy Model has been utilized in a variety of clinical and non-clinical settings. Section V has sample test questions for those nurses seeking to obtain certification through AACN or the American Association of Nurse Executives. These questions provide the nurse with further examples of the integration of the model into practice.

We would like to thank the contributors to the second edition of this book. This book has been edited to enhance the readers' understanding of the Synergy Model. It should also provide a reference to those who are in the process of utilizing the model in their practice and those considering having a theoretical basis for their practice.

Sonya R. Hardin
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