

Leadership Management Functions of the Nurse

Leadership Roles of the Nurse

1. Serves as a role model by providing nursing care that meets or exceeds accepted standards of care.
2. Updates knowledge and skills in the field of practice and seeks professional certification to increase expertise in a specific field.
3. Reports substandard nursing care to appropriate authorities following established chain of command.
4. Fosters nurse–patient relationships that are respectful, caring, and honest, thus reducing the possibility of future lawsuits.
5. Creates an environment that encourages and supports cultural diversity and sensitivity.
6. Prioritizes patient rights and patient welfare first in decision making.
7. Demonstrates vision, risk taking, and energy in determining appropriate legal boundaries for nursing practice, thus defining what nursing is and should be in the future.

Management Functions of the Nurse

1. Increases knowledge regarding sources of law and legal doctrines that affect nursing practice.
2. Delegates to subordinates wisely, looking at the manager's scope of practice and that of the individuals he or she supervises.
3. Understands and adheres to institutional policies and procedures.
4. Minimizes the risk of product liability by assuring that all staff are appropriately oriented to the appropriate use of equipment and products.
5. Monitors subordinates to ensure they have a valid, current, and appropriate license to practice nursing.
6. Uses foresee ability of harm in delegation and staffing decisions.
7. Increases staff awareness of intentional torts and assists them in developing strategies to reduce their liability in these areas.
8. Provides educational and training opportunities for staff on legal issues affecting nursing practice.
9. Monitors whether employees are practicing within their scope of competence.

Reference

Foundation for Effective Leadership and Management,
Nursing Malpractice, 2003, p. 7