Portfolio Content Outline
Effective February 29, 2016

Rheumatology Nursing Certification through Portfolio

Certification through portfolio is designed to objectively assess specialized knowledge, understanding, and application of professional nursing practice and theory through the review of a collective body of work present in a nurse’s portfolio.

Four domains have been established, along with performance evaluation requirements, as the framework for the portfolio. Each nurse’s portfolio should demonstrate how his or her practice within the specialty area encompasses each of the four domains and completes the required evaluation materials.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Domain</th>
<th>Domain Weights</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I. Professional Development</td>
<td>10.80%</td>
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<tr>
<td>II. Professional and Ethical Nursing Practice</td>
<td>32.40%</td>
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<tr>
<td>III. Teamwork and Collaboration</td>
<td>25.20%</td>
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<tr>
<td>IV. Quality and Safety</td>
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<tr>
<td>Supervisor/Peer-Evaluation</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Self-Evaluation</td>
<td>5.00%</td>
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</tbody>
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100.00%
I. **Professional Development (10.80%)**
   A. Identifies learning needs and seeks learning experiences to develop and maintain clinical and professional skills and knowledge related to rheumatology nursing.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the evaluations and/or professional development record that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Learning a skill
   - Seeking mentorship
   - Conducting literature search in rheumatology

   B. Participates in ongoing formal/informal educational activities related to rheumatology knowledge, practice, and professional issues.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Pursuing continuing education
   - Taking online or onsite college courses
   - Participating in relevant professional organizations

   C. Applies knowledge regarding current evidence and works to implement evidence-based care within the practice setting.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the evaluations, professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.*

II. **Professional and Ethical Nursing Practice (32.40%)**
   A. Utilizes nursing process in providing direct or indirect care to patients with rheumatic disease and comorbid conditions, while following *Rheumatology Nursing: Scope and Standards of Practice (2013).*

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Conducting prebiologic/disease-modifying antirheumatic drug (DMARD) screenings
   - Identifying barriers to care
   - Understanding the use of immunosuppressant medications
   - Teaching, supervising, implementing and/or conducting research with respect to the nursing process

   B. Provides age-appropriate and developmentally appropriate direct or indirect care in a culturally and ethnically sensitive manner.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.*
C. Defines appropriate, evidence-based assessment techniques, instruments, and tools related to disease activity and physical functioning.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Conducting prebiologic assessment
- Conducting standardized rheumatology disease assessment

D. Identifies actual/potential risks and barriers to the rheumatology patient’s health and safety.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Identifying interpersonal issues
- Identifying physical issues
- Identifying financial or environmental/social circumstances

E. Directly or indirectly provides the patient with education regarding rheumatology-specific medications:

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Affirming the need to report changes in health status
- Explaining the disease process related to medication
- Conducting staff education as related to medication

F. Directly or indirectly provides information on the potential risks, benefits, and outcomes of health care regimens, to facilitate informed decision making by the patient.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Providing information on plan of care related to the disease process
- Conducting staff education as related to risks and benefits

G. Participates in ongoing self-evaluation to determine strengths and opportunities for advancing professional development, including but not limited to:

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Going through the goal-setting process
- Networking with peers
- Seeking feedback from colleagues
H. Uses the American Nurses Association’s *Code of Ethics for Nurses with Interpretive Statements (2015)* and contributes to resolving ethical issues.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Encouraging diversity in the workplace
- Taking appropriate action regarding instances of illegal or unethical behavior that could endanger or jeopardize the best interests of the patient or situation

I. Continually complies with all relevant regulatory requirements, professional practice standards, and guidelines of the employing institution.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the evaluations, professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Following HIPAA guidelines
- Assuring OSHA compliance
- Safeguarding privacy

### III. Teamwork and Collaboration (25.20%)

A. Models expert practice and provides direction to other members of the health care team.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Mentoring colleagues
- Participating in journal clubs
- Making presentations
- Writing reports for publications

B. Advocates for health care and utilizes community resources that are sensitive to the needs of patients with rheumatic disease, particularly as related to rights, advocacy, and confidentiality.

*The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

- Writing grants
- Obtaining prior authorization
- Becoming involved in political action
- Volunteering for foundations
C. Utilizes available health care technologies to maximize access and optimize outcomes for patients with rheumatic disease.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Coordinating access to online records and electronic communication

D. Collaborates with health care professionals to improve and provide integrated delivery of care.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Collaborating with researchers
   - Collaborating with cardiology professionals
   - Collaborating with pulmonology professionals
   - Collaborating with primary care professionals
   - Collaborating with physical or occupational therapy professionals

E. Uses creativity and innovation to enhance nursing care, where applicable.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Creating protocols
   - Improving work flow
   - Exhibiting flexibility in patient management
   - Networking
   - Collaborating with community partners

F. Maintains effective communication, conveying information between the patient/family and the interdisciplinary team, ensuring accuracy of information, and minimizing risks associated with transitions in care.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Transferring/referring patients between practices

G. Communicates effectively with the patient and colleagues, and practices appropriate negotiation techniques and conflict resolution, as needed.

   *The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:*

   - Effectively using communication tools/process algorithms (e.g., AIDET, SBAR, etc.)
   - Negotiating treatment plans
   - Deescalating stressful situations
IV. Quality and Safety (21.60%)

A. Identifies current assessment techniques, diagnostic strategies, or therapeutic interventions.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:

- Following treat-to-target guidelines for patients with rheumatic diseases
- Performing literature searches

B. Critically evaluates the manner in which health issues are presented by the popular media and other sources, and then clarifies this information for the patient and family.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.

C. Provides health teaching that addresses such topics as healthy lifestyles, risk-reducing behaviors, developmental needs, activities of daily living, and preventive self-care.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.

D. Recognizes the impact of over-the-counter (OTC) and complementary and alternative (CAM) therapies on traditional treatment. Counsels patients on safety of using OTC and/or CAM therapies, and/or refers patients to appropriate providers.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.

E. Provides education on the safety of immunosuppressant/immunomodulatory medications.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar.

F. Promotes a practice environment that reduces environmental health risks for workers and patients.

The rheumatology nurse is to provide evidence in the professional development record, resume, and/or exemplar that may include but is not limited to:

- Promoting infection control
- Providing emergency/disaster training