The Impact of Advance Practice Nursing in a Comprehensive Breast Center: Improving Throughput, Reducing Readmission Rates, and Increasing Satisfaction

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Introduction
- The Vanderbilt Breast Center is a NAPBC accredited, comprehensive, full service, multidisciplinary outpatient facility
- Advance Practice Nurses (APNs) encompass a variety of roles to deliver patient care
- APNs can be used to improve patient flow among services and allow physicians more role specific time with patients

Objective
- Describe contributions made by Advance Practice Nurses to the delivery of care in the Vanderbilt Breast Center.

APN Roles and Functions
- 8 APNs are employed in the Breast Center
- Functions of APNs: clinical evaluation, education, referrals, order testing, management of patient within NCCN guidelines, liaison between patient and physician, support physician, involvement in community programs and clinical research
- APNs have dual roles working in wound care, management, infusion, and as physician extenders and patient navigators

Differences in Nurse Practitioner Roles

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Role</th>
<th>Function</th>
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<tr>
<td>Radiology APN</td>
<td>Biopsy education and coordination, review pathology with radiologist and develop plan of care, track statistics for biopsy procedures, diagnoses, and complications</td>
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<tr>
<td>Surgical Oncology APN</td>
<td>Perform procedures, manage acute patients, act as physician extender, manages long term follow up of breast cancer patients and high risk patients</td>
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<tr>
<td>Medical Oncology APN</td>
<td>Manage acute patients, on-call to infusion unit for reactions, manages long term follow up of breast cancer patients and high risk patients</td>
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<td>Survivorship APN</td>
<td>Provides survivorship care plan, education</td>
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<td>Hereditary Cancer APN</td>
<td>Genetic counseling and testing, coordination of high risk patients</td>
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Impact on Patient Volumes

Reflects the contribution of APN practice to early entry to system, improved time to diagnosis, and implementation of a treatment plan.

Impact on Satisfaction

Reflects the contribution of APN practice to early entry to system, improved time to diagnosis, and implementation of a treatment plan.

Conclusion
- Patient volumes and satisfaction increased
- Decreased ED visits and readmissions
- Physicians have more time with new patients
- APNs and RNs practice at the top of their license

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