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| Title: Enhanced Role Nurse | Policy Number: 5.2 |
| Approved By: Belinda Pettiford, MPH | Program Area: Family Planning |
| Effective Date: March, 1996 | Revised Date: 7/18/2012 |

Purpose Statement of Policy:

To provide periodic assessment and care of low-risk family planning clients by public health nurses who meet the requirements of an enhanced role nurse in family planning clinics provided by Title X.

Definition:

Defined within the Enhanced Role Nurse policy the following areas must be addressed:

- Consistent with the North Carolina Nurse Practice Act and related rules and regulations, public health nurses who meet the following requirements may provide periodic assessment and care of low-risk family planning clients:
 - BSN or have completed the “Introduction to Principles and Practices of Public Health and Public Health Nursing”
 - One year of experience in family planning
 - Completion of the Adult Physical Assessment Education Program
 - Completion of the Family Planning Module
 - Demonstrated clinical competency in physical assessment including the pelvic examination.

- Standing orders must be updated and signed by a physician at least annually for routine medical intervention and continued contraception.
- Physician or mid-level practitioner must be accessible either on-site or by phone for consultation and referral.
- May provide initial physical assessments only on low-risk clients with a documented complete normal physical within the past 6 months and desiring to continue with their current method.
- May provide annual physical assessments to low-risk clients desiring to continue their current method.
- May not perform physical assessments on low-risk clients who have been seen for the past two years for the annual visit (every third annual assessment must be performed by a physician or mid-level provider).
- May not see clients who request a change in contraceptive methods, experiencing a method problem, insertion or removal of intrauterine device or implant, identified health problem during the assessment.
- Must maintain clinical competence through required patient contact hours and educational contact hours determined per Women’s Health Branch continuously and without interruption in such requirements.

- Must submit annual roster of enhanced role nurses with numbers of patient contact hours and accrued educational contact hours to Women's Health Branch.

Responsibilities:

It is the responsibility of the local health department and its designated personnel to develop, implement and ensure compliance among all staff on the administration of the Enhanced Role Nurse policy in the Title X Family Planning clinic.

Policy:

The local health department will ensure that written policies are in place that address the above required areas in the definition section for provision of Enhanced Role Nurse policy for clients seeking family planning services provided by Title X.

Legal Authority:

This policy is based on the enhanced role specifications (10/15/96) in Volume II of the Women's Health Resource Manual and North Carolina Board of Nursing rules and regulations for RN scope of practice.

References:

North Carolina Board of Nursing rules and regulations can be accessed at:

<http://www.ncbon.com>

Enhanced Role specifications can be found on Women's Health Branch webpage in the Family Planning Policy Manual (Policy #5.2) and can be accessed at:

<http://whb.ncpublichealth.com/provPart/pubmanbro.htm>

For examples of policies from the local level, please contact your Women's Health Regional Nurse Consultants.