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**THE AUSTRALIAN ASSOCIATION OF
STOMAL THERAPY NURSES Inc.**

**Association Information and
Standards of Stomal Therapy Nursing Practice
2007**

**These standards have been adapted from the Australian Nursing Federation
Victorian Branch Community Health Nurse Special Interest Group
Standards for Community Nursing Practice
and have been updated following the Competency Standards for the
Advanced Registered Nurse (ANF) 2005**

Compiled by the AASTN Inc. Education and Professional Development Subcommittee Working Party

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Introduction

The Australian Association of Stomal Therapy Nurses Inc. (AASTN) is the professional organisation of Stomal Therapy Nurses in Australia.

Original Standards for Stomal Therapy Nursing Care developed by the Education Subcommittee in 1991 have been revised to more accurately reflect the broader scope of the Stomal Therapy Nurse's role as an Advanced Practitioner within the health care system. These Standards of Stomal Therapy Nursing Practice can be used as a guide by those involved in conducting education programs for Stomal Therapy Nursing, by practicing Stomal Therapy Nurses in their goal of achieving high quality nursing care, and by the public and employers for reassurance regarding that care. It is anticipated that regular reviews of these Standards will take place to promote best practice in Stomal Therapy Nursing.

The Association's objectives reflect the promotion of quality care for a wide range of people with specific needs. These needs may be related to ostomy construction, urinary or faecal incontinence, wounds with or without tube insertion, and breast surgery. Individuals across the life span are provided with preventative, acute, rehabilitative and continuing care as required.

Objectives of the AASTN Inc. (As per Constitution April 2005)

1. To promote, maintain and develop professional standards to the highest degree in relation to Stomal Therapy Nursing.
2. To promote public knowledge and awareness of Stomal Therapy and the role of the Association and its members in providing such therapy, and to engender public confidence and respect therein.
3. To promote the use of Stomal Therapy Nursing interventions to enhance self-care and empowerment of the person with the potential for, or actual, stoma, wound or incontinence which will result in optimum recovery and rehabilitation of the individual.
4. To promote and support independent or collaborative education and research programs related to Stomal Therapy Nursing.
5. To represent Stomal Therapy Nurses as a professional body and achieve a harmonious liaison with other individuals and professional bodies associated with Stomal Therapy Nursing.
6. To promote professional communication through publications, meetings and educational forums to allow opportunities for the membership to present and discuss the practice, education, research, technological and scientific developments in, or pertaining to, Stomal Therapy Nursing.

AASTN Inc. Vision, Values and Purpose

(Adopted 1998)

Vision:

Enduring recognition for excellence and innovation in stomal therapy nursing practice at a national and international level. We believe recognition is important, and that this recognition should acknowledge diversity of opinion and intellectual contribution, as well as demonstration of excellence in nursing practice. We feel it is important to be responsive to changing demands and be able to meet challenges of the future with excellence and innovation.

Values:

Quality: one of the core values of our Association means that we believe in high standards and making the most of our abilities. It encompasses all activities, including clinical research, management, education and administrative duties. We strive for excellence in everything we do and in so doing, promote our profession.

Respect: reflects our deep consideration for our patients, colleagues and all with whom we, as Stomal Therapy Nurses, come into contact.

Commitment: is not just about our relationships with our patients and colleagues; it is about our relationship with our Association. Stomal Therapy Nurses believe in the importance of support, encouragement and mentorship, in addition to sharing knowledge and experience. Commitment also entails being dedicated and loyal and demonstrating allegiance to our professional body.

Innovation: we recognise the importance of new and fresh ideas and support all our members in their pursuit of innovation and professional excellence.

Purpose:

To provide support and leadership to Stomal Therapy Nurses in their endeavour to deliver quality nursing practice.

Code of Ethics (Adopted 26th April 1984 - Revised March 2001)

1. The Stomal Therapy Nurse must at all times maintain the highest professional standards of nursing care and professional conduct.
2. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will provide needed services to persons irrespective of race, colour, creed, sex, sexual preference, age and political or social status.
3. The Stomal Therapy Nurse must respect the beliefs, values and customs of the individual and maintain their right to privacy by maintaining confidentiality, sharing with others only that information relevant to his / her care.
4. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will not participate in unethical practice.
5. The Stomal Therapy Nurse must maintain competency by keeping abreast of new developments, theory and practice of stoma care and related fields.
6. The Stomal Therapy Nurse will participate actively in professional, inter-professional and community endeavours to meet the highest professional standards.
7. No Full Member shall be in the employ of a company or self employed in the manufacture or sale of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals where it could be perceived that the use or selling of products, prostheses or pharmaceuticals could disadvantage or contradict the personal preference of clients or be construed to result in an unethical conflict of interest.

STANDARD 1 encompassing *Conceptualises Practice* and *Leads Practice* of the revised Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse (2005)

PROFESSIONAL ROLE AND DEVELOPMENT (Professional practice)

The Stomal Therapy Nurse assumes responsibility for a high level of nursing practice through evaluation, reflection, continuing education, professional development and research, and contributes to professional growth of others

Rationale

The review of nursing practice is undertaken to ensure quality outcomes for the client, family and community, and thereby to review the outcomes of nursing care.

Structure Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Maintains current registration and practicing certificate
- Maintains knowledge of legal implications of nursing practice within the stomal therapy nursing setting
- Updates policies, procedures and role description to reflect the philosophy of stomal therapy nursing
- Strives to ensure that organisational structure and administrative services and environment are adequate for the nurse to provide quality and safe nursing care
- Provides a mechanism for peer review which is nurse initiated
- Is part of the multidisciplinary health management team and participates in program planning and decision making
- Develops leadership skills appropriate to the multidisciplinary health care environment
- Develops managerial skills conducive to stomal therapy nursing
- Develops appropriate education and counselling skills
- Strives to provide opportunities for nurses to conduct and / or participate in research
- Promotes best practice through involvement in Quality Improvement Activities

Process Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Complies with the professional Code of Ethics
- Practices in accordance with legislation, nursing regulation and common law affecting practice
- Practices within own abilities and qualification
- Maintains the rights and safety of clients / groups / communities
- Acts to rectify unsafe nursing practice or professional misconduct
- Participates in workplace administration and management including budgetary requirements and allocation of resources
- Evaluates and reflects on own practice and engages in peer review
- Participates in activities designed to maintain and / or improve the quality of client care and promotes health within the community
- Participates in decision making about health care planning, practice and evaluation
- Identifies community needs and cooperates with human services and government bodies in the identification of community care
- Accepts personal responsibility for continual extension and updating of nursing knowledge and skills through formal and informal learning

- Is familiar with theories, practices and research pertaining to current stomal therapy nursing practice
- Assumes professional responsibilities, demonstrated by membership, active support and / or participation in appropriate professional organisations
- Accepts professional responsibility for the continuing development and refinement of knowledge and skills in practice through research

Outcome Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Practices in accordance with the common law and duty of care
- Practices within own competency and qualifications, and meets legal and ethical requirements
- Shows evidence of continuing professional development through participation in continual professional development and credentialling
- Participates in the decision making at meetings at local, regional and, where appropriate, national level
- Evaluates the effectiveness of established methods of stomal therapy nursing by evidence based practice, measuring outcomes in health status of clients, groups and communities
- Participates in and provides assistance for writing research proposals, collecting and analysing data and implementing findings of stomal therapy nurses and relevant others
- Adds new knowledge through descriptive studies, validates knowledge utilising research design and publicises results in professional literature
- Demonstrates documented evidence of Quality Improvement Activities

STANDARD 2 encompassing *Adapts Practice* of the revised Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse (2005)

COMMUNICATION PROCESSES

The Stomal Therapy Nurse establishes and maintains communication processes in professional relationships

Rationale

All persons are affected by the environment they encounter. Stomal Therapy Nurses acknowledge that effective communication processes will foster collaborative relationships with clients using health care services. Clients may be individuals, families, groups, health care workers or communities.

Structure Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Strives to ensure that environmental surroundings are conducive to effective client communication processes
- Strives to ensure that financial resources and appropriate advocacy support are available to provide relevant health care information in a format and style acceptable to clients
- Ensures that client consultations are conducted within accepted professional nursing and legal limits
- Functions independently to promote, facilitate and implement supportive counselling for clients
- Ensures that nursing counselling skills are maintained and enhanced through professional development and continuing education
- Strives to ensure that opportunities exist for multidisciplinary collaboration

Process Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Establishes initial and ongoing effective communication processes with client populations
- Utilises appropriate communication tools and strategies to effect communication with clients from non-English speaking backgrounds
- Provides an environment of confidentiality, respect and dignity, and facilitates open communication in client consultations
- Assesses clients' receptiveness to the Stomal Therapy Nurse and respects the right of clients to determine their own health care requirements
- Intervenes appropriately and counsels clients
- Is available to the client to discuss and clarify health related information, and initiates health care referral where required
- Establishes and maintains a network of collaboration with other health care workers
- Communicates appropriately with other health workers on matters pertaining to clients' attainment of optimal health
- Advocates for clients within health care services
- Advocates for stomal therapy nursing within the local, regional and national health care networks

Outcome Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Strives to ensure clients feel comfortable in the current treatment setting
- Strives to ensure clients understand health information presented by the nurse
- Encourages clients to identify community and institutional resources available to them

- Encourages clients and / or families to participate in the evaluation of nursing care and revision of nursing care plans
- Ensures there is documented exchange of information between referral sources
- Encourages appropriate and coordinated use of health care resources
- Is recognised as an effective member of the multidisciplinary health care team
- Is seen as an advocate for enhanced health care in local, national and international settings
- Promotes stomal therapy nursing services in interactions with planning and policy making health bodies

STANDARD 3 encompassing *Conceptualises Practice* of the revised Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse (2005)

CLINICAL BEST PRACTICE

The Stomal Therapy Nurse provides comprehensive, accurate and systematic evidence based nursing care with professional autonomy in any practice setting

Rationale

Nursing care enables and advocates improvement and conservation of health status, preservation of health function, avoidance of harmful changes and restoration of health. Late identification of disease and disability will impact on the level of optimum health functioning.

The framework of the nursing process affords the development of clinical pathways and individualised nursing plans for each client. The nursing process consists of: assessment and data collection, nursing planning, intervention and evaluation.

Data collection and nursing assessment is essential for the provision of comprehensive care of clients and their significant others. The process must be accurate, systematic, comprehensive and ongoing to allow the nurse to plan appropriate interventions and facilitate the achievement of desired client outcomes.

Structure Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Ensures that the data collection method in use provides for systematic, accurate and comprehensive collection of client assessment data and follow-through of client health concerns
- Ensures that the record keeping process facilitates concise, comprehensive, accurate and ongoing recording of client consultations
- Ensures that the record keeping system maintains confidentiality and is kept in a safe environment
- Ensures that the practice setting environment provides safe surroundings free from hazards
- Ensures that the caseload management enables nursing consultation in a variety of clinical settings as appropriate
- Ensures that client health monitoring and assessment methods are in place
- Ensures that independent nursing interventions are able to be provided to enhance client health status and minimise client health risk factors
- Ensures that nursing intervention skills are maintained and increased through professional development and continuing education
- Strives to ensure that health agency resources and environment allow for implementation and evaluation of nursing intervention
- Ensures that ongoing evaluation of nursing interventions is undertaken in a format suitable to the nurse and client

Process Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Collects initial and ongoing client and family health related assessment data within acceptable nursing and legal limits, and in a manner acceptable to clients
- Identifies cultural and belief systems that influence the client's physiological, psychological, social and spiritual functioning
- Assesses role relationships and interaction patterns of client and significant others
- Assesses stressors and coping mechanisms of client and significant others

- Assesses adequacy of support networks and facilitates sources of support when needed
- Assesses and monitors clients' health status by processes including observation, interview and physical examination when required
- Obtains data by interview of other significant persons
- Records data obtained in a systematic manner
- Analyses client data by comparing it with norms, standards and previous data if appropriate
- Devises and records a plan of nursing care in collaboration with client, and if appropriate, significant others, that includes priorities and expected outcomes
- Consults and collaborates with health care professionals and significant others to provide coordinated, planned health care
- Initiates appropriate referral to other health care professionals for client health concerns
- Intervenes appropriately for clients experiencing health risk factors
- Implements independent nursing interventions to promote client and family health

Outcome Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse

- Ensures client and family assessment data, clinical pathways and nursing care plans are recorded in a systematic and retrievable format
- Ensures that the assessment information and nursing plan recorded are current and accurately reflect the client's present health status
- Ensures that there is evidence that the client and significant others participated in nursing assessment, nursing planning and evaluation of nursing care
- Ensures that the plan of care will show evidence of revision as client goals are achieved or changed
- Ensures that the evaluation of nursing interventions is documented in a manner that may contribute to the development of nursing knowledge
- Ensures that the plan will include referral of the client to other health professionals if indicated

STANDARD 4 encompassing *Leads Practice* of the revised Competency Standards for the Advanced Registered Nurse (2005)

EDUCATION AND HEALTH PROMOTION

The Stomal Therapy Nurse assists individuals, significant others and communities to achieve optimal levels of wellness through health education and promotion

Rationale

Activities of health education, health promotion, counselling and disease prevention are an essential part of a nurse's role. Every interaction can be utilised as a teaching, learning and counselling situation. Formal and informal teaching and learning methods can be used in working with individuals, families, groups and the community. Stomal Therapy Nurses encourage people to make informed decisions through health education and promotion.

Structure Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Ensures that there are opportunities to use varied and appropriate teaching and counselling methods
- Strives to ensure appropriate teaching and counselling facilities and resources are provided within the practice setting
- Ensures that health education / promotion activities by nurses are specified in job descriptions

Process Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Assesses the individual's / group's actual and perceived health needs, including the readiness to learn and willingness to integrate new knowledge and / or skills or belief-systems into current lifestyles in order to bring about behaviour modification in consultation with the client
- Calculates the resources required and establishes an optimal learning / counselling environment to facilitate the behaviour modification
- Plans realistic and specific learning / counselling goals and teaching strategies / counselling modes in consultation with the client
- Implements teaching strategies / counselling methods, adapting these to the client as necessary, in light of client feedback
- Acknowledges and respects individuals' background, cultural and religious beliefs, values and perceptions in the process of health education / promotion
- Is involved in environmental health and safety through formal and informal activities
- Collaborates with health care professionals, health administrators and other appropriate personnel to plan, implement and evaluate health care programs
- Functions as a resource person, clarifies information and establishes networks for / with clients
- Acts as a resource for the multidisciplinary team members
- Promotes and supports health education / promotion activities of nurses

Outcome Criteria

The Stomal Therapy Nurse:

- Evaluates the progress during and after each session or series of sessions based on documentation, performance measurements and anecdotal notes
- Reviews the needs of the client / community and the strategies used in light of the evaluation results
- Shows evidence of community involvement in health promotion planning

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