

Illness  
Injury  
Disease

Optimum Health  
Well Being

## UAMS NURSING PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE MODEL

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### Integrative Theoretical Framework

Nursing at UAMS embraces an integrative theoretical framework that is built on the premise that nurses function as a "bridge" to optimal health and well-being as defined by the patient (Henderson, 1973, Pender, 1982). The bridge has many underpinnings including UAMS' commitment to "institutional integrity" (Kolcaba, 1991) and to partnering with patients and families to promote their Comfort, Hope & Healing. Clinical expertise and empowered practice enables UAMS nurses to form intentional relationships that support shared learning, trust and partnering with patients, families and other healthcare providers (Peplau, 1952). Such collaborative patient-family centered relationships foster respect for the cultural identity and preferences of patients resulting in highly individualized care (Leninger, 1991).

## ***Interpretive Statement***

A professional practice model is a schematic description of how nurses practice, collaborate, communicate and develop professionally. At UAMS, nursing practice is supported by structural and philosophical underpinnings depicted in the model. UAMS nurses draw from the strength of each “*pillar*” as they provide the “*bridge*” to optimum health and well-being for patients and families.

The **Circle of Excellence** (COE) describes UAMS’ service and behavioral standards which represent the overall commitment to institutional excellence and integrity.

**Evidence-based Practice** (EBP) is considered by UAMS nurses to be the utilization of patient/family preferences, research and their own clinical experiences to guide clinical decision-making.

**Supplying Opportunities for Advancement of the RN** (SOARn) is the clinical ladder program designed to foster professional development and growth of UAMS nurses while ensuring accountability and achievement of proficient clinical practice.

**Professionalism, Accountability, Communication and Excellence** (PACE) are the building blocks of the UAMS Nursing Mission, Vision, Values and Philosophy. UAMS nurses set the *PACE* for creating a culture of nursing excellence.

**The Professional Nursing Organization** (PNO) is the shared decision-making organizational structure that enables UAMS nurses to be informed, heard and empowered in their professional nursing practice.

**The Care Delivery System** (CDS) is the framework for organizing and providing care to patients and families and describes *specific* care delivery practices, systems & processes (i.e. work/resource allocation; partnering and communication among providers, patients/families; unit-based leadership).

**Patient-Family Centered Care** (PFCC) is the approach to health care delivery embraced by UAMS that is grounded in partnerships among providers, patients and families.